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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-027 *8 February 1996*

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Terrorist Activity

Russia: Zavgayev Urges Chechens To Avoid Provocations

LD0702180796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1711 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 7 February (ITAR-TASS) — Doka Zavgayev, head of the republic, has appealed to the population to prevent a new tragedy from erupting in Chechnya. In a special message to the people of Chechnya, periodically repeated today on Groznyy TV, Zavgayev declared that the unsanctioned rallies, processions and other actions are being organized by the same groups that led the Chechen people to disaster in 1991. According to the head of the republic, these forces have now become active once again in order to frustrate the accords that have been reached on the stage-by-stage withdrawal of federal troops from the republic.

"It is my duty as head of the republic, as a Muslim and as a Chechen to warn you of the looming danger and to urge you not to allow yourselves to be involved in any provocations," Doku Zavgayev said, addressing the republic's young people, elders and all people of goodwill. He called for an immediate end to the unsanctioned rally in Groznyy.

Russia: Chechen Government Denies Dispersing Groznyy Rally

LD0702141696 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports by a number of news agencies that the Chechen Government has decided to disperse the unapproved rally in Groznyy have been denied in an interview for our radio station by Abdul Abugayev, deputy prime minister of the Chechen Government.

[Begin Abugayev recording] The government did not have permission to disperse the rally. The Interior Ministry and the Procuracy have been entrusted with taking the necessary measures to end unapproved rallies aimed at destabilizing the social and political situation in the Chechen Republic. The procurator has sufficient forms and methods of a purely preventative nature and he should use them here. [end recording]

Abugayev also said that, according to his information, Dzhokhar Dudayev visited the southern part of the Chechen capital on an inspection tour and left highly disappointed at the passivity of the people at the rally.

The Groznyy authorities acknowledge that they will not be able to break up the rally by themselves. We have just learned that Chechen Interior Minister Khamid Inalov has left for a meeting with the command of the group of federal forces in the republic.

Russia: Groznyy 'Quiet' as Groups of Demonstrators Go Home

LD0702153996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1447 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — No more than 500 people were left at the onset of dusk outside Dudayev's former palace in Groznyy, where since Sunday there has been an unsanctioned rally of opposition forces. Big groups of people are hastily leaving the square. Those remaining are preparing for another night in the tents pitched and shelters made of materials at hand here.

At the rally, calls are still being made for the withdrawal of federal forces from Chechnya and for the resignation of the government of Doku Zavgayev.

Despite today's decision by the Government of the Chechen Republic to end the rally, the law enforcement bodies are not yet taking any measures. No concentrations of militia or military hardware can be seen in the area where the rally is being held. The situation in the city is quiet.

According to a report from a source in the law enforcement bodies, there is no single opinion in the leadership of the Chechen Ministry of Internal Affairs, which was today criticized at the session of the operational headquarters of the Government and Supreme Soviet of the Republic, of how and when to mount an operation to end the unsanctioned rally.

Russia: ITAR-TASS Reports Pro-Dudayev Rally in Groznyy

LD0802074996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0646 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Barricades had gone up by this morning on Groznyy's central square near the former presidential palace. They were erected during the night by participants in the pro-Dudayev rally which has been continuing since Sunday. Stones, concrete blocks, and construction materials are being used to erect the barricades and obstructions.

Some 1000 people had gathered on the square by 0900. The number of those taking part in the rally is constantly increasing; they come on foot or in cars and buses.

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Calls for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya and the resignation of Doku Zavgayev's government are ringing out.

Islamic flags and the flags of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria are fluttering above the palace and the surrounding buildings. Dozens of posters with anti-Russian slogans have been stuck on the fronts of apartment blocks, pictures of Dzhokhar Dudayev and Shamil Basayev have been displayed on the balconies.

Despite the intention of the government of the Chechen Republic to hinder this unsanctioned rally, the situation in the area of the central square has not changed: no additional law and order forces and armored vehicles have been brought in.

Near the government buildings adjacent to where the rally is being staged, three armored personnel carriers and special unit militia detachment [OMON] subunits have been on duty since yesterday to prevent possible provocations.

In the town as a whole the situation remains calm. Shops, institutions, and the town's market are functioning.

Russia: Groznyy Rally Continues; Yeltsin Statement Due 15-20 Feb

AU0802110296 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Groznyy, Russia, Feb 8 (AFP) — Russian troops and armor on Thursday completely sealed off the Chechen capital of Groznyy where hundreds of pro-independence protestors were camped out for the fifth day to demand the departure of Russian troops.

Despite threats from the pro-Moscow government of Doku Zagayev to put an end to the demonstrations, a Chechen government spokesman, Ruslan Martagov, however, told AFP: "Force will not be used today."

It was impossible to enter or leave the city on Thursday, either by car or foot, and no exceptions were being made for anyone.

Russian armored vehicles blocked off all routes into the city. Within Groznyy itself, the main crossroads were cut off by Russian soldiers and policemen of the pro-Russian Chechen government who were blocking all traffic.

Demonstrators overnight had used rocks, concrete slabs and metal framework to set up barricades on Groznyy's main square overlooking the former presidential palace, the scene of violent clashes with Russian forces last winter. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators have also hoisted banners on facades of nearby houses with anti-Russian slogans and portraits of separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev and army chief Shamil Basayev.

Russian embassies said the situation was calm on Thursday.

The Kremlin hardened its position on Wednesday. Kremlin Security Council secretary Oleg Lobov warned that the demonstrations were forcing Moscow to reconsider its "good intentions" to make partial troop withdrawals from Chechnya. [passage omitted]

Lobov said Yeltsin would make a key statement on policy in Chechnya between February 15-20.

The announcement would come around the same time as Yeltsin has promised to announce whether or not he will run for re-election in the June presidential elections. The unpopular war is seen as a liability to Yeltsin's re-election chances.

Russia: Groznyy Rally Prepares To Resist Authorities

LD0802115296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Oleg Artyushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — Participants in the opposition rally, which is going on for the fifth day in the Chechen capital, are readying for resistance after the pro-Moscow government said it was going to stop the protest action.

The demonstrators have erected barricades overnight and are now arming themselves with wooden and steel sticks.

"It is impossible to defend with that", a 30-year old demonstrator wearing a green Islamic headband told TASS while polishing his wooden stick with a knife. "We only want to show that we are ready to fight. Otherwise we would have brought submachine guns with us", he added.

In the meantime, several bronze sculptures were brought to the barricades from various parts of the city. Anti-Russian slogans are now hanging on them and the demonstrators are willingly posing before cameramen on the background of the barricades.

Police patrols have several times approached the rally and tensions immediately flared up among its participants. Women armed with sticks and portraits of separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev made a live circle in front of the barricades.

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The rally has no single epicentre. People are standing in groups and the biggest one is at the entrance to the ruined building of the former presidential palace. Calls to immediately withdraw federal troops from Chechnya and to dismiss the pro-Moscow government of Doku Zavgayev are permanently shouted out though loudspeakers from there.

Men and women made two circles at the beginning of the Victory avenue close to the palace square and are performing the traditional Chechen "zikr" dance.

There are many teenagers among the demonstrators who also wear green headbands and shout "Allah Akhbar". However, most of them prefer to play in nearby yards.

Traders from the local marketplace are moving close to the rally hoping to sell their merchandise to the crowd.

In the meantime, new tents are appearing on the palace square and stoves are used to heat up and cook in them.

A sign appeared on one of the tents which reads "Salman Raduyev street", a reference to the terrorist who headed the recent hostage-taking attack on Dagestan.

The Dzhokhar Dudayev and Shamil Basayev "streets" also appeared.

Water, bread and food are regularly brought to the tent camp.

The general situation in Groznyy continues to be quiet. No police and armour concentrations have been seen.

However, some of the streets leading to the palace have been blocked by trucks.

Russia: Chechen Rebels Release Two Russian Servicemen

LD0702151496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) -- Chechen rebels released two Russian servicemen seized in Chechnya on Wednesday.

The servicemen — Captain Grakov and Private Shapirov — were exchanged for two Chechen fighters who are suspected of committing a crime, Interior Ministry officials told INTERFAX.

Russia: Hostages' Fate Depends on Local Chechen Gang Leaders

MM0802103196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Sergey Kotov: "How the Dudayevists Thanked the Stavropol Power Workers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The last time we dwelt in some detail on the vicissitudes of the 29 power workers seized by a gang in Groznyy was nearly two weeks ago.

At that time their release was talked of as a virtual fait accompli, however our conversation with representatives of the "YeES Rossii" Russian joint-stock company showed that the situation is by no means as simple as some human rights campaigners would have it — human rights for Dudayev's people, that is. At any rate, it became clear on 23 January that it would take a great deal of effort to get the specialists, who had come to provide Chechen families with light and heat, out of their predicament.

Now headway has again been made in the power workers' affair, if we are to believe certain media: Apparently [rebel chief of staff] Maskhadov himself gave his field commanders a written order to release the specialists, who had been restoring the Groznyy No. 2 heat and electric power station. We even learned of the place where, according to certain information, the people so vital for the paralyzed republic were being kept — a population center 12 km from the settlement of Urus-Martan.

Does this mean that these totally innocent people's ordeal will soon be at an end? Actually, they probably are guilty — of wanting to restore peaceful life in Chechnya. This is precisely what offends Dudayev's "dogs of war," for whom the worse things get, the better.

Meanwhile Yuriy Dolin, head of the YeES Rossii Russian joint-stock company headquarters set up to restore the Chechnya energy system, is by no means as optimistic about the captured power workers' fate. According to him, there is actually information about Maskhadov's order for the specialists' release, but evidently the so-called field commanders are in no hurry to carry it out.

Special attention should be paid to this last fact. After all, the top Dudayevists are fond of reiterating that they are in full control of the rash of armed formations in Chechnya that are more inclined to rob than to wage war. That is why the power workers' case is highly instructive. It is not inconceivable that some of the gang commanders see this as an opportunity to raise their own stock with their entourage and are therefore in no hurry

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to part with hostages. So they do not give a damn about orders from Maskhadov, who is inclined to bluster.

Russia: Groznyy Security Situation, Daily Life Viewed

MM0702100196 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 96 p 5

[Report by special correspondent Aleksandr Kakotkin from Chechnya: "A Nightmare Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy — On the Rostov to Baku route, as you enter the capital of Chechnya, there is a huge signboard saying: Grozn. The name was "shortened" by a shell during last year's assault. And they've forgotten to repair it. The same can be said for the capital itself, and doubtless even for the whole republic, which is suspended in a state of "neither war nor peace."

Life Among the Ruins

The most widespread graffito on the streets of Groznyy is not "Freedom for Chechnya" or even "Allah Akbar," but the extremely prosaic "Tire repairs." As local residents in what was once the most motorized republic of Russia explain, "for a long time after the storming of the city there was so much metal stuff lying about in the streets that sometimes you had to have your tires repaired two or three times a day." Also noticeable is the impressive number of signs advertising gynecological and venereological cooperatives: another inevitable concomitant of the prolonged presence of a large number of troops in the city.

Not much has changed in Groznyy in a year. Piles of building rubble have been moved out of the ruins, as a result of which some districts have turned into deserts; the airport, the station, the bus station, and certain administrative buildings have been restored. As for the housing stock, the restored apartment blocks can be counted on your fingers. Many districts of the city are to this day reminiscent of parts of Stalingrad after the battle on the Volga. And yet, according to official figures, last year 6 trillion rubles was assigned for the restoration of Groznyy — more, for instance, than for the whole health service in Russia this year (5.5 trillion). Only Allah knows where this money went. At all events, Russia's law-enforcement agencies, in the shape of the general prosecutor himself, have also taken an interest in this.

Government House is periodically picketed by construction workers from various regions who have not received their wages since early fall. There is electricity, but virtually no hot water, and even the cold water is subject to interruptions. At least a few buses have started running. In fact there is no transport problem — barely half the prewar population remains in the capital. And for some reason no influx has been observed since the war — on the contrary, instead of graffiti saying "Someone lives here," there are more and more "House for Sale" signs.

Telephone links have been restored, but calling another city from an apartment telephone is still an insoluble problem. The Russian newspapers reach Groznyy three or four days late and the local ones come out very erratically. There is nowhere to go for relaxation: All the museums and other cultural institutions were destroyed, not even a single movie theater is operating to this day. In recent months restoration work has almost ceased. As an official from the Russian Federation territorial administration for Chechnya explained to IZVESTIYA, last year's money has run out, and no new money has been provided yet. The former construction workers have mostly dispersed, and new ones are not being allowed into the city because of the more rigorous system of passes.

After 1600 hours nobody is to be found in any institution. When darkness falls, the city is deserted. At night, troop posts and the police have orders to open fire on any motor vehicle. The order was announced as a temporary measure, but it is well known that nothing is more permanent than a temporary phenomenon.

In Groznyy by night you could write a novel called "A Greeting to Arms." The first isolated shots begin at about six o'clock in the evening. By eight or nine, salvos are being fired, machine guns and grenade throwers join in with the automatic weapons, and rockets light up the deserted streets. They are shooting at gunmen and night snipers, and often out of drunkenness or fear. One time, a warrior who had had too much to drink fired off a barrel-mounted grenade thrower at the territorial administration's hotel, which is mainly inhabited by journalists. There were no casualties, but the glaziers had plenty of work. As midnight approaches, howitzers start roaring somewhere in the distance. Sometimes the hum of aircraft is heard in the night sky. That is a bad sign. As a rule, in the morning it becomes clear that another bomb has been "accidentally dropped" on some residential quarter.

Calling an ambulance at night is virtually useless: You would be lucky to find a driver willing to drive past 10 blockhouses at night without stopping. And in order to get the wounded to hospital, those who are unscathed run to their Russian neighbors. The neighbors go to the nearest blockhouse and persuade the soldiers to make an armored carrier available for transport. They try to

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get them taken to the military hospital — the chances of surviving at the regular hospital are slim....

The Authorities and the People

There are so many authorities in Groznyy that you cannot tell who is responsible for what. There are the president's representative, the Russian territorial administration for Chechnya, and the republic government which is in a permanent state of renewal. There are the Chechen MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the Russian Federation MVD Temporary Administration for Chechnya, plus the [Chechen] republic FSB [Federal Security Service], which it would be more accurate to call the [Russian Federation] FSB Directorate for Chechnya, since 80 percent of its personnel are seconded. Then, finally, there are the head of the republic and the commander of the grouping of federal forces in Chechnya.

Relationships among them are illustrated quite accurately by the mutual opinions of personnel of the MVD and the FSB, which are located on opposite sides of the same street. "Who are they?" — they say at the MVD. "They're not professionals, they're exiles who have been sent here for various misdeeds. They don't do anything — if they get through the day, they think they're doing well. We couldn't decide whether to ransom them off alive, or as corpses, when they get drunk and wander off where they shouldn't." The chekists give as good as they get: "The MVD? They're former Dudayevites, to a man. At the drop of a hat, we'd have to defend ourselves against them too." Naturally, with a relationship like that, there can be no question of really working together. And if a child with seven nannies is watched by nobody [Russian proverb roughly equivalent to "Too many cooks spoil the broth], then things are even worse with nine nannies.

Meanwhile the child — that is, the people — has been going its own way for a long time. Usually in hot spots everyone takes a lively interest in politics. In Groznyy that period seems to have passed. At all events, we did not find a single inhabitant who could even remember the name of the city mayor, let alone the government members. The commonest reply was: "It makes no difference to us who it is — Khadzhiyev, Zavgayev, or Dudayev. They're all the same." People are mainly concerned for their own survival. Some people engage in "shuttle" trade, some earn money as carriers, some make a living around the numerous administrative organs and troops. The lucky ones find jobs on a construction project or in the gradually reviving oil sector.

The population's interests are very modest. If you manage to get out of town via a blockhouse without paying a bribe or being detained, it puts you in a good mood for the whole day. If hot water suddenly appears in the apartment, it's a great delight, a real family celebration. If you are held up somewhere until late and get home alive and unharmed, it's a real feat, worthy of being marked appropriately among your circle of friends. And, it must be said, not without reason, crime in Groznyy, which was considerable even before, has now taken on a frankly threatening scale. It is better not to walk around town on your own, even in daylight. And God forbid that you wander off to the market, say. In the past two months Russian journalists alone have suffered more than 20 robberies. Incidentally, we once observed a raid on the market by the local OMON [special-purpose police detachment]. The policemen were pursuing vodka dealers and breaking bottles. But this was not a fight against crime, in effect it was a religious measure within the framework of the approaching Muslim fast. Naturally, it is easier to fight the godless than the bandits. But even then there is no point: Vodka can still be bought under the counter. As for crime, according to official MVD figures alone, there were more than 600 murders in Chechnya last year. Only six have been solved....

Despite the dire situation in the city, the residents are very friendly. There is no noticeable hatred of Russians. Russian songs are heard from loudspeakers everywhere, and graffiti and newspapers are also in Russian everywhere. Even talking among themselves, the Chechens switch from one language to the other. In general people are living in expectation of change. Everyone is sick of the prolonged uncertainty. One local Chechen expressed the general mood thus: "You people in Russia must finally make your minds up. Either shoot us all, or deport us, or leave us in peace. We can't go on living like this, not knowing what will happen this evening, let alone tomorrow."

Troops and Gunmen

The military commandant's office building in Staropromyslovskiy Rayon in Groznyy is covered in slogans like "Down with the occupying forces!" We asked the neighbors whether it is dangerous to write things like that. "No," they replied. "A year ago they might have shot you for it, but now they take no notice." In front of the police blockhouse on the way into Argun, there is a banner: "Stop! I shoot to kill!" But the incumbents of the blockhouse say it is "just a joke."

There are so many troops and police in Chechnya, under various jurisdictions, that if they were to start taking their job seriously and fighting, chaos would be inevitable. At the post on the way out of Gudermes we came across a special rapid-reaction detachment all the way from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy. In some

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cities there is a total dyarchy, or at best peaceful coexistence between the federals and the gunmen. Thus, in Urus-Martan in broad daylight you can find one of Zavgayev's policemen in Russian uniform on the street, and just five meters further on one of Dudayev's gunmen with a green ribbon on his automatic weapon. And it's no problem; since the time of the elections there have been no clashes.

Firefights break out periodically between troops and gunmen at the posts. Sometimes an army convoy is ambushed, or there are shellings and bombings of villages. But broadly speaking nobody really wants to fight. The troops, who are spending their second winter freezing in the open fields, want only one thing — to be demobilized as soon as possible. The gunmen, who are now living in their own homes, are certainly not burning with the desire to return to the cold mountains. Despite the bellicose statements of the leadership on both sides, it would take a very powerful ideological trigger to start a large-scale war.

Furthermore, the troops and gunmen are evolving in the same political direction. While the republic's official leadership vows loyalty to democracy and the Russian president, the troops raise red flags at the blockhouses. Recently at a post in the Chernorechye suburb of the capital the Russian tricolor was replaced with a real Soviet banner with the hammer and sickle. Incidentally, that post is considered the best in Groznyy....

One of the Dudayev regime's main ideologists, Akhmet Zakayev, former culture minister and now an influential field commander, made no secret of his sympathies in an interview for IZVESTIYA. "Of course it is better for us if the Communists win," he said. "They are really the only decent politicians in Russia. We will have no great problems reaching agreement with them." In view of Dudayev's remark that he has not handed in his party card, these can hardly be regarded as empty words. And they have their own logic. As Zakayev also said: "The present authorities will not stop the war. Those who replace them will. And that will most likely be the Communists."

In the village of Yermolovka near Groznyy, where we had strayed in search of the hostages from the TETs-2 [No. 2 Heat and Electric Power Station], we had a noteworthy conversation with local inhabitants. "There are no hostages here," the villagers said. "And please don't write that they were here. If you write that, we'll get shelled — it's happened more than once before. And we don't need that."

Whatever the leaders on all sides may say, one fact is plain to see and is confirmed by everyone: People are tired of war. And for all the shortcomings of the present state of "neither war nor peace," it has one big advantage — the shootings and bombings are increasingly rare. And that means you can get on with life.

Military Activity

Russia: Lobov Views Chechen Cease-Fire, Troop Withdrawal

LD0802073096 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0337 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Chechnya continues to attract the closest attention. Oleg Lobov, Security Council secretary and the president's plenipotentiary in Chechnya, called for the concepts of cease-fire and withdrawal of federal troops from Chechnya not to be mixed up:

[Begin Lobov recording] These are completely different things. If you paid attention, [Yusup] Soslambekov — he is man who cannot by any means be reckoned among the supporters, say, of the Defense Ministry or the president, or Zavgayev — spoke out in a television interview against the withdrawal of troops, against the war, and against the withdrawal of troops. And even he says in the interview that troops should not be withdrawn forthwith, despite the fact that, strictly speaking, he is the initiator of this movement for the cessation of the war and the collection of signatures for the cessation of the war.

It seems to me that the question here should be tackled only when the situation becomes more stable and the provisions in the set of military issues signed in the summer of last year are fulfilled, that is to say, when the illegal armed formations are disarmed. That is the main condition.

Also, there is no question of withdrawing all troops. The border troops must probably stay. The air defense system must remain on Russia's southern borders, and the units needed for defense in peacetime for the whole of Russia, stationed in the Chechen Republic, must remain. Therefore, it is evidently a matter of a partial withdrawal, namely of the troops which are temporarily in the Chechen Republic in order to disarm the illegal armed formations.

Zavgayev's initiative as regards the withdrawal of troops from individual districts was also immediately interpreted as a withdrawal of troops from Chechnya. Well, here you probably also sense the substitution of concepts. I believe that he himself made it clear what he meant.

Now one needs to pay attention to this wave of rallies with armed people among the crowd attending them,

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even though in the past three days there have been no clashes, and may God grant that this does not happen. But, on the whole, the idea, which is well intentioned, to withdraw from individual districts and turn them into demilitarized zones, is called into question by the opposition's aggressive drive for an immediate troop withdrawal. This problem requires a balanced and professional approach and must undoubtedly be tackled, taking into account the situation and coordinating the actions of the federal forces with the local authorities, and in particular with Zavgayev's government, something which is envisaged by the agreement signed in December 1995. [end recording]

Russia: Troop Withdrawal From Chechnya To Begin 8 Feb

LD0702151696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — The first stage of the withdrawal of federal troops from Chechnya will start on February 8, a Chechen government source told INTERFAX Wednesday.

He said federal army and interior units will be withdrawn from the Shatoy region of Chechnya, whose administration head Yusup Dakhshukayev has managed to achieve stabilization.

The Shatoy leader agreed with Chechen field commanders on termination of hostilities and provocations against the local authorities, restored the executive, legislative and judicial power institutions and gained support of the elders and religious leaders, said the source.

Russia: Chechen Rebels To Return Four Russian POW's

LD0702160096 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Feb 96

[G. Nikolayev video report captioned "Groznyy"; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] These four Russian soldiers became POW's in different ways. [Video briefly shows four POW's sitting against wall] They have lived here for two months, and as they are not guilty of spilling Chechen blood, it has been decided to return these 18- and 20-year-olds to their parents, rather than to the military.

[Begin D. Makhayev, member of the security council of the republic of Ichkeriya, identified by caption, recording] We will check their passports and return them to their mothers and fathers, because if we return these prisoners [to the Armed Forces], the Federal Security Service and the like will be after them, because they are listed either as being killed or as deserters or as POW's. [end recording] [passage omitted, giving names of the soldiers and their places of residence]

The Chechen side has undertaken to return the soldiers without any preconditions, expecting goodwill alone in response:

[Begin R. Soslanbekov, chairman of the movement "People's Diplomacy for Peace and Unity," identified by caption, recording] Taking into consideration the anti-war sentiments in Russian society, and especially Yavlinskiy's statement in IZVESTIYA, the leadership, or rather the command of the Chechen side, asked by our movement, has decided to free these lads. I hope this will work toward improving good-neighborly relations between our peoples. [end recording]

Political Reaction

Russia: Yeltsin Prepares Speech on Chechnya at Security Council

LD0702140996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Andrey Surzhansky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Wednesday's session of the Russian Security Council was a preparation for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's speech on the Chechen problem, council secretary and Yeltsin's plenipotentiary representative in Chechnya Oleg Lobov told reporters today after the session.

Commenting on media reports that Yeltsin may launch an initiative aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Chechen problem as soon as possible, Lobov said "the president has declared that he will make a relevant statement on February 15 to 20."

Speaking of a recent campaign for collecting signatures under appeals to solve the Chechen problem peacefully, Lobov warned against confusing two different concepts — an "end to the war" and a "withdrawal of federal troops from the republic".

According to him, the issue should be solved after the situation gets stable and illegal Chechen paramilitary groups are disarmed.

Only units which are temporarily deployed in the republic and engaged in disarming rebel forces may leave Chechnya. However, border guard and anti-missile units must stay in the republic, he said.

"This issue needs a well-considered approach," he stressed.

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Russia: Yeltsin Tells Premier To Select Chechen Peace Plan

LD0802115696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin has instructed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who is known to be the most resolute supporter of a peaceful solution in Chechnya, to select the most acceptable peace plan for rebel republic and to submit it for consideration in two weeks.

"We have seven variants on how to end the war in Chechnya and the Security Council created a group on Wednesday headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin which will group all the variants together or select one of them which would suit everybody", Yeltsin told TASS on Thursday before meeting regional leaders.

The president made it clear that, if the war in Chechnya continues, he has no chances to win the second term of office. However, a rapid and complete withdrawal of Russian troops can trigger clashes between Chechen separatists and pro-Moscow forces.

"Withdraw the troops from the whole of Chechnya and a massacre would begin. Keep them and I should not even aspire for presidency: the people would not understand me. Therefore, it is necessary to find such a compromise which would suit everyone and, mostly, the people of Chechnya", Yeltsin said.

He added that the discussion of the Chechen solution was brief at the Security Council meeting on Wednesday.

However, "the main thing was determined: we created a group and gave it two weeks, and then we shall all gather again and decide what is to be done", Yeltsin said.

Premier Chernomyrdin was the man who peacefully settled the hostage drama in the city of Budennovsk last summer, where Chechen terrorist Shamil Basayev took some 3,000 people hostage. Peace talks began in Chechnya after that resulting in a military agreement with the separatists. However, talks on political issues stalled.

Russia: Yeltsin Will Not 'Humbly Beg' Dudayev for Peace

LD0802103096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — "Russian President Boris Yeltsin is not a man to humbly beg for peace from Dzhokhar Dudayev," Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev told a briefing here today.

At the same time, he said that "there will be no scorched earth tactics in Chechnya, no matter how much this is desired by some hot heads". The Press Secretary said that "not all the i's were dotted in the Chechen problem" after the Wednesday meeting of the Russian Security Council, which lasted for more than three hours". "The elaboration of a concept for settling the Chechen conflict and overcoming the crisis is not over. There is no ready-made decision at present," Medvedev noted. "However, active work is being continued and a reasonable solution is bound to be found," he added.

Russia: Lobov: Major Policy Changes Toward Chechnya 'Unlikely'

LD0702180496 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Between 15 and 20 February President Yeltsin is likely to present a program for a settlement in Chechnya, Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Security Council, said after today's meeting of the Council. Lobov said, however, that Russia's policy in North Caucasus is unlikely to undergo cardinal changes in the near future. Anatoliy Adamchuk reports:

[Begin recording] [Adamchuk] Economic cooperation with North Caucasian countries hinges on the Chechen problem to a considerable degree. Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov said that major roads, oil pipelines, and power lines should pass through Chechnya to the Caucasus countries.

[Lobov] We are already buying more from Armenia than we are selling. No state regards such a situation as advantageous. There are electric power stations which we are repairing in the Chechen republic and if we restore their normal work this will make it possible to feed electricity to Trans-Caucasus and adjacent republics, and so on. A decision on this issue should be taken only after the agreement on the package of military issues signed last summer has been implemented, in other words, after the illegal armed formations have been disarmed.

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[Adamchuk] So the Security Council secretary has spelled it out. The introduction of constitutional order [in Chechnya] seems to be very closely interlinked with Russia's economic interests. [end recording]

Russia: Dudayev Wants To Destroy Russia 'From the Inside'

AU0802091896 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2130 GMT 7 Feb 96

[Report by Angus Roxburgh and Claudia Lind, including statement by Chechen "President" Dzhokhar Dudayev, "at Dudayev's secret hiding place"; date not given — recorded; Dudayev speaks in Russian with superimposed German translation]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Announcer] General Dudayev has found the ceasefire negotiations unsatisfactory so far. He withdrew Chechen mediators who wanted peace and were prepared to reach a compromise. He does not want his rebels to be disarmed and insists on complete independence from Russia.

[Dudayev] Everything is all right in our country. Yes, it is true, there are occupiers here, but this is just a matter of time. We want part of them to stay here, a small contingent: Those who have died already and those who are prepared to die on our soil. The others can only leave the country or die here. There is no third option. That is our contract with Russia. We want to establish a strong state that is able to face all the challenges, whatever they may be. We have everything that is needed for this, the necessary preconditions in nature, the genetic potential, and a strong and powerful nation. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Since summer 1995, the Chechen rebels have demonstrated their determination to spread the terrorism to Russia. Dudayev sees the Budennovsk terrorist attack as the first in a series of similar attacks.

[Dudayev] What if the war ended all of a sudden? If there were an agreement and Russia withdrew? What would I do then? There would be 300,000 men between 17 and 50 without shelter, without jobs, without existence. Angry men left to themselves, who have only learnt to fight. What am I to do with them? I need a little war now, an opponent, an enemy against whom all this energy can be directed. Yes, I do have a program. I do not want to stop it all like that, like a business deal; I want to go to Russia. The people must be prepared to carry the conflict into Russia and destroy the country from t[illegible]nside. [passage omitted]

Russia: Dudayev Rails Against U.S. President, W. Europe

MM0802102096 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Distorting Mirror: Elusive Dzho Decides To Hunt Bill. Our Correspondent Attends Dudayev Press Conference. Impossible To Comment on What He Heard; Only Option Is To Quote"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "...The 467th year of confrontation between Russians and Chechens is here. Every time a weary Russia has asked the Chechens for peace. The Chechens cannot be captured and their will cannot be broken by force, no matter how formidable. That is how the Almighty made us...."

"Russia is Chechnya's internal affair.... World War III is already under way.... These marches on Russia, in particular the Caucasian 'jaguars,' were planned.... This is to demonstrate that we will not agree to bathe our children in blood here while our neighbors bathe in milk. That is dishonorable...."

"....Yeltsin is the last person responsible for this war. Who provoked this war? Primarily the Duma. Look at the kind of decisions they adopted...."

"....I will not say that I intend to attack installations in Moscow. I will decide the conditions, the time, and the place.... People are wasting their time trying to provoke me to attack Moscow. The time will come and we will attack. Not Moscow, but West Europe, which is sanctioning all this. Along with Russia."

"....Two-thirds of the world, directly or indirectly, has been fighting the Chechen people and their statehood for over four years now. Russia is being helped in this aggression by the whole Western world, including Mr. Clinton, President of the United States of America, who gave his blessing to the military aggression against the Chechen people and their state by instructing Boris Yeltsin over the telephone not to cause too much bloodshed. We have instituted criminal proceedings against Clinton...."

Russia: Bonn Takes Dudayev's Threats 'Very Seriously'

LD0702212496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2016 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Bonn has taken Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's threats against the West very seriously, a German Foreign Ministry official told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

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He said the ministry is now checking whether such statements may carry any real threat.

He noted that there is no specific evidence so far indicating that Chechen rebels are planning terrorist acts or other acts of violence in Germany.

If such evidence is obtained, Germany will immediately contact relevant services in Russia, he added.

During his recent meetings with the residents of one of the Chechen villages, Dudayev blasted the West for standing by Russia and allegedly providing Moscow with 6.5 billion U.S. dollars to fund the war in Chechnya.

Russia: Zyuganov's Chechen War Solution — End Fighting

LD0702213396 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] At a plenary sitting of the State Duma today the deputies attempted to determine the legislative priorities this year. [passage omitted]

Gennadiy Zyuganov expounded from the rostrum his proposal to resolve the vital problems of state.

[Zyuganov] We think it necessary to pass a law on presidential decrees and on the presidential administration, which in essence are exercising uncontrolled arbitrary rule in the country.

[Correspondent] Zyuganov also proposed setting up within parliament a sort of intellectual council, which would present its conclusions on all the legislative bills before they were debated by the two chambers of parliament.

In the middle of his speech, the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation called for a halt to military actions in Chechnya.

[Zyuganov] There is no military solution of the problems there, nor can there be. We therefore propose halting all military actions, and setting up an authoritative commission made up of all three branches of power: the Duma, the Federation Council and the executive power. This commission alone should coordinate all actions on conducting the peacemaking process.

[Correspondent] At the same time, Zyuganov called upon the relevant services to take tougher measures against the Chechen bandit formations, after giving them the opportunity to lay down their weapons voluntarily.

Zyuganov also criticized the government for destroying industry and agriculture, which gave deputy [Galina] Starovoytova] an opportunity to suggest that the communist leader should himself take on the chairmanship of the cabinet of ministers and thereby ease the plight of Russian citizens. [passage omitted]

Russia: Dagestani Minister: Hostage Negotiations Near Deadlock

LD0702195396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MAKHACHKALA, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — Talks on the release of the Novosibirsk police officers held hostage by Chechen rebels are nearing deadlock, said Dagestani Nationalities Minister Magomedsalikh Gusayev.

Since the rebels are refusing to change their demand that the remaining 12 policemen be exchanged for rebels captured in Pervomayskoye, it is necessary to fulfil their demand, he told INTERFAX.

Currently, everything depends on Moscow, where the republican leaders are now, and on the Russian Prosecutor General's Office, said Gusayev.

Meanwhile, "invisible talks" are being held daily with rebels in Novogroznenskoye, in particular by elders and religious figures, who are trying to find out what can be done to secure the release of the Novosibirsk policemen if the federal side refuses to exchange them for the captured rebels.

Gusayev described the measures taken by the Dagestani side as "preparations for the next official consultations."

Russia: Chechen Government Tightens Public Safety Controls

LD0702185096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1759 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — In accordance with today's decision by the Chechen Government to end the unsanctioned rallies in Groznyy, the law-enforcement agencies have been instructed to take additional measures to ensure law and order and public safety. A special Chechen Government directive instructs the Interior Ministry and the Federal Security Service administration for the Chechen Republic to join the command of the federal forces in banning persons without a town residence permit from entering Groznyy until a special instruction is issued. They are also to restrict the movement of vehicles and people inside the town.

The sale of alcoholic drinks in Chechnya is forbidden until the end of the month of Muslim fasting, i.e. until 20 February.

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All of Groznyy's life-support services are instructed to arrange for emergency teams to be on duty round the clock and for installations to be guarded at all times.

Residents today experienced additional measures restricting movement around Groznyy but nothing has yet been done to end the rally which is continuing in the town center.

Russia: Yekaterinburg Referendum Forwarded To End Chechen War

LD0702171096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEKATERINBURG, Feb 7 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — The Yekaterinburg Public Movement of Civil Initiatives Wednesday put forward an initiative in the local press to hold a referendum to stop the war in Chechnya. Activists from this movement have started collecting signatures under this demand and an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Earlier the Ural Association of Women, and local branches of the Memorial society and of the Democratic Choice of Russia addressed the president with an appeal to stop the war. These organizations are also collecting signatures to stop the war in Chechnya.

Activists of the Transformation of the Fatherland movement led by governor of the Sverdlovsk region Eduard Rossel have also started collecting signatures.

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CIS: Conference on Asian Cooperation Opens in Kazakhstan

LD0702193696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Gennady Kulagin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, December 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Deputy foreign ministers from the 15 member-countries of the conference on cooperation and confidence-building measures in Asia gathered in the Kazakhstan capital on Wednesday.

The meeting was devoted to the questions of providing mutual guarantees for the political independence, territorial integrity and state security.

Represented at the meeting were Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Russia was represented by its deputy foreign minister, Aleksandr Panov.

Observers from 10 other Asian states, including those from Vietnam, Egypt, Indonesia and Japan, as well as the U.N. and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] representatives also arrived in Almaty.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan addressed the meeting, saying that "the main motive of the countries, represented at the meeting, is their noble intention to preserve security and stability in the vast Asian region."

"The conference on cooperation and confidence-building measures in Asia is a new approach to the system of relations between the states of the continent. Joint efforts have proved that the Asian countries are able and willing to cooperate in order to achieve stable peace and security," Nazarbayev said.

"It is important that the conference has become a real factor of the regional policy. However, there is a long and difficult way ahead, which is to be covered together," Nazarbayev noted.

The two-day meeting is to discuss a number of draft documents concerning its structure, institutions, and principles of cooperation among other issues.

It will also deal with preparations for the future meeting of foreign ministers of the member-countries and adopt a final document.

CIS: Russian Official Views Asian Conference

LD0702214196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 7 Feb 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is very important for Russia to be surrounded by a zone of good-neighborly relations, stability and peace, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told INTERFAX in Almaty Wednesday. Panov represents Russia at the conference.

This will enable Russia to successfully solve its internal problems, he said.

Panov stressed the importance and opportunity of the initiative to hold this forum put forward by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

According to Panov, this conference should turn into an effective mechanism for the maintenance of peace, stability and cooperation in Asia.

Panov said he had discussed the preparation of a meeting of Asian foreign ministers with his Kazakh counterpart, Qasymzhomart Toqayev, earlier Wednesday afternoon.

"Such forums help ease the acuteness of regional problems," Panov said.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Feb

LD0802070396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0647 GMT 8 Feb 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — Follows a review of Thursday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated February 8.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on President's remarks at the opening of Russia's Security Council.

Threats to technological security are of both temporary and strategic nature, Boris Yeltsin told the Council. He instructed the government to "devise a system of measures to restructure national scientific institutions for them to concentrate on priority research areas".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on suggestion that Boris Yeltsin should run for a second Presidential term of office.

"Boris Yeltsin is the only consolidating factor in Russian politics. This is the common opinion expressed by the Presidential Council members at a meeting with journalists," the newspaper writes in an article about the initiative of the Council members who stated that they

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intend to suggest that Yeltsin should run for a second Presidential term.

PRAVDA on candidacies for the Russian presidency.

Touching upon the suggestion of new candidacies for Russian presidency, the newspaper reports that sponsoring groups have already announced more than 30 names. "Among them are both prominent political figures and people who suffer from Herostratus complex, the kind of financial pyramid founder Sergey Mavrodi," the newspaper points out.

TRUD on people's attitude to presidency in Russia.

Federation Council Speaker Yegor Stroyev has told the newspaper that he is "firmly" in favour of a "strong Russian state with the Presidential branch of power". "Nowadays, presidency organically fits into the State administration structure," Stroyev emphasised.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on the results of World Economic Forum session in Davos.

"The reason for a heightened interest in Russia in Davos was undoubtedly a desire by Western statesmen, political figures and businessmen to gain an understanding of the political situation in Russia in the light of the results of the recent elections to the State Duma and prospects for the forthcoming Presidential elections," the newspaper writes.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the forthcoming Russian-U.S. space mission.

"America and Russia make themselves at home in orbit. Joint space missions now become quite an ordinary thing," the newspaper points out in an article dedicated to the forthcoming 21st space mission due to begin on February 21. The expedition will consist of Mission Commander Yuriy Onufriyenko, U.S. astronaut-researcher Shannon V. Lucid and Flight Engineer Yuriy Usachev.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the Black Sea fleet division aftermath.

"The division of the Black Sea fleet has an impact in the safety of navigation," the newspaper concludes. "Navigation in the Black and Azov Seas becomes increasingly problematic and dangerous in the light of the division of the Black Sea fleet and the disruption of the once integrated and well-adjusted system of observation, communications, radionavigation and hydrographic servicing of ships and boats," the newspaper writes.

IZVESTIYA on delays in the payment of salaries to Karelian police.

The newspaper frontpages a column of reports about delays in the payment of salaries, this time to Karelia police. The newspaper quotes Karelian Interior Minister Vladimir Sidorov as saying that the police have not been receiving pay since November last year. Police patrol cars have long been lacking fuel and most of them are at a standstill. The Ministry's Financial and Economic Department blames the delays on the Finance Ministry which was instructed by Boris Yeltsin to "sort the matter out" before February 8, the article emphasises.

IZVESTIYA on the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl disaster.

The newspaper runs an article by Vladimir Verbovikov and Boris Zyukov, journalists from Gomel, about the Chernobyl tragedy.

"April will see the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster when 'peaceful atom' swept our houses and departments, changing in many respects the style and mode of life of millions of people, exposing the vices of the old system and prompting it to break up," the journalists point out.

"Ten years after the event, specialists still remain at a crossroads while the Chernobyl victims are in need of clear-cut programmes dealing with Chernobyl-related issues," the journalists write.

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Russia: Grachev Inspects Troops in Bosnia, Views Problems

LD0702230196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2149 GMT 7 Feb 96

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Shevtsov and Ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uglejevik, [Bosnian] Serb Republic, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Speaking to the Russian airborne assault troops within the Implementation Force [IFOR] on Wednesday night, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev urged them to be "extremely alert and careful" during their peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. During an inspection visit to the Russian brigade recently deployed in northeast Bosnia, the minister said the main task for the Russian command at the moment is "to make sure that our peacekeepers have everything necessary to carry out their duty and that all 1,600 of them return home after the operation is over."

On his arrival in Tuzla, the Russian minister had talks with George Joulwan, NATO supreme allied commander, Europe. The NATO contingents form the IFOR backbone. Problems of implementation of the peace treaty in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the IFOR role in this process as well as questions of interaction between the NATO contingents and the Russian brigade were discussed at the meeting.

After the meting, Grachev said one of the main problems encountered by the peacekeepers is the large quantity of mines laid along the disengagement lines between the Bosnian Serb and Muslim troops. Grachev instructed Lieutenant General Vladimir Kuznetsov, head of the Russian Ministry of Defense's directorate of engineering troops, who came along with him, to study the problems of clearing the land of mines on site, jointly with the American specialists, and report back on their conclusions and recommendations in the shortest possible time.

In his turn Joulwan noted "the high training level of the Russian airborne troops." He expressed confidence that "cooperation between Russia and the United States will help the establishment of peace in Bosnia and lay the foundation for new relations between the two countries."

Speaking to officers at the headquarters of the Russian brigade stationed in the town of Ugljevik, Grachev introduced them to the new chief of the operational group involved in interacting with the command of the U.S. Army's 1st Armored Division with whom our peacekeeping forces are operating in northern Bosnia. Lieutenant General Aleksey Sigutkin has been appointed chief of the operational group. He replaced Major General Nikolay Staskov, deputy commander of airborne troops for peacekeeping operations, in this post. The minister highly assessed Staskov's contribution in the faultless redeployment of the brigade in Bosnia and its location in the stipulated area.

At the meeting with Russian officers of airborne troops, Grachev spoke in detail about reforms in the Army and the reassigning of some airborne units to Russian ground troops. He described the move as "the development process in the airborne troops, which cannot just 'mark the time.'" "Populists in the airborne troops are pushing us toward destroying Russian airborne troops. We have no right to allow this. Russia needs airborne troops as an elite branch. We are not destroying them, as some people claim — we are improving them."

The minister said that he had given orders to Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, airborne troops commander, to draw up in a month's time proposals for improving the structure of the airborne troops. According to him, it is supposed that the modernized airborne troops of Russia will consist of five airborne divisions and four brigades.

Russia: Commander Says Troops in Bosnia Keen To Serve

MM0802101096 Moscow TRUD in Russian 8 Feb 96 pp 1,4

[Interview with Colonel General L.P. Shevtsov, Acting Deputy Commander in Chief of the Multinational Forces in Bosnia for the Russian Troops, by Nikita Shevtsov, in Brussels, date not given: "Our Soldiers in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — Colonel General L.P. Shevtsov, acting deputy commander in chief of the multinational forces in Bosnia for the Russian troops, has returned to Brussels from his visit to the area where the Russian brigade is stationed. Here is what he told our correspondent:

[L. Shevtsov] Our full contingent of troops arrived in their designated area by the allotted time. As early as 2 February they had replaced American troops at the fortified checkpoints in their deployment areas. They are now on duty at 12 fortified checkpoints at road junctions in areas where there is a particularly high concentration of vehicles and people and in "trouble spots" where special attention is needed. The organization of the checkpoints is among the main tasks now. Normal conditions are being provided for the troops' daily activity, in particular repairs are being carried out to auxiliary buildings and barracks, canteens and medical centers are being fitted out, and equipment is being deployed. Representatives of the operational groups

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and divisions which have contributed servicemen are concluding contracts with the local authorities and U.S. rear support services to provide the Russian contingent with everything that it needs. But we also have our own two-month supply of rear service support and medical provisions which we brought with us.

[N. Shevtsov] What is the mood among our servicemen like?

[L. Shevtsov] They are serving willingly and enthusiastically. I have not heard a single soldier complain about being ordered to go there.

[N. Shevtsov] How have the opposing sides received our troops' arrival?

[L. Shevtsov] I have met with representatives of the Serb and Bosnian leaderships in Bosnia. The Serb side is showing an amicable attitude and has been providing assistance, especially with regard to equipping the fortified checkpoints. The Bosnian side's attitude is cautious. There is a certain distrust of our contingent, although there are no grounds for that.

[N. Shevtsov] Has our servicemen's security been ensured?

[L. Shevtsov] The main danger facing the contingents of all the countries represented in Bosnia, including the Russian contingent, stems from the minefields planted by the opposing sides in the past few years. In the past few days alone, two Italian servicemen and one serviceman each from Portugal, the United States, Britain, and Norway have died after stepping on mines. I therefore make no secret of the fact that the danger will persist for the next two- three months until the minefields have been cleared. We have received maps of the minefields from the Serb and Bosnian sides. Our airborne troops have taken two teams of dogs trained to detect mines. At the same time, those who planted the mines are to carry out the mine clearance operation. That is envisaged in the Dayton accords.

[N. Shevtsov] The Western press is writing a lot now about the need to track down and extradite war criminals.

[L. Shevtsov] That is not the Russian brigade's mission. Other structures are to do that.

Russia: Lobov on NATO Accession Conditions For Some CIS States

LD0702144896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1432 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov called for working out a common concept of some CIS countries' accession to NATO which would take into account the interests of all CIS states.

Speaking about Ukraine's position on this issue, Lobov, who met journalists after a session of Russia's policy-making Security Council on Wednesday, said "I would not say that Kiev is actively seeking accession to the North Atlantic Alliance. We do not feel such a position yet." He believes that Kiev's position is dominated by a cautious approach towards this problem and by an active search for a mutually beneficial partnership with Russia.

Russia: Karasin: West Should Pay More Heed to Russia on NATO

WS0702143496 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 7, BNS — The Western states should take more careful note of Russia's opinion on the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a Russian diplomat said Tuesday.

Commepting on U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's remarks in Munich last Sunday that NATO would go ahead with expansion regardless of Russia's opposition, Grigoriy Karasin, head of the foreign ministry information department, told BNS Russia would find out the United States' position more exactly at a meeting between the two states' foreign ministers slated for Saturday in the Finnish capital of Helsinki.

"This topic will be on the top of the agenda in Helsinki," the diplomat said.

"Russia's views are unchanged: We absolutely reject the idea of NATO's expansion," Karasin underlined in his interview with BNS.

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Russia: Russian Negotiators Cited on IMF EFF Credit

MM0802102696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Irina Savvateyeva: "If Indeed Russia Does Receive $9 Billion This Will Only Be To Continue Reforms"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As has been announced, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus will arrive in Moscow in the near future. The exact date of his visit is still being agreed. Within the Russian Government it is thought that this visit is a good sign. It is expected that in the course of the visit the IMF's decision to grant Russia more extended credit (EFF) [extended fund facility] will be announced.

The extended credit is an IMF loan for "grown-ups." It is granted to countries that have already achieved financial stability and intend to build on the successes they have achieved. This is a loan to consolidate the reforms.

Usually financial stability is taken to mean achieving a level of inflation that is characteristic of developed Western countries. This is somewhere in the region of 1-2 percent per month. But for the moment prices are rising here more quickly. But this year it is planned to achieve average monthly inflation of 1.9 percent over the year.

The extended credit is granted for a three-year period in equal quarterly tranches. The loan's final size has still not been confirmed, but it will clearly not fall below $9 billion. At least, $3 billion extended credit has already been built into the 1996 budget. Maksim Boyko, a member of the Russian delegation in the talks with the IMF, noted in an IZVESTIYA interview that in principle "Russia had a chance to receive even more" — up to $12 or even $14 billion.

But there is a big question over whether it still has this chance after the recent reshuffles in the government and the adoption of a whole series of decisions on expenditure.

Like any other IMF loan, the extended credit is granted against a particular economic program: The intentions to reform the economy should not merely exist in declarations, but should be set down on paper as specific steps. They include the development of instruments of monetary policy, regulation of the banking system, and management of the budget. A wide range of measures is also envisaged for tax reform and the regulation of natural monopolies, for privatization and the management of state enterprises, and for the securities market and land reform.

In this way, the necessity of receiving extended credit should make Russia wake up and not delay the transformations, but steadfastly and methodically move forward. For example, in the event of an agreement being signed, it will no longer be possible to endlessly put off resolving such politically troublesome questions as the reforming of the coal industry's management system or the implementation of a whole series of measures designed to increase transparency in the major corporations' financial activities. For example, those of "Gazprom."

The program's second part comprises agreed measures concerning monetary and budgetary policy. Specific steps are being proposed to strengthen items of the budget's expenditure component and the parameters of budgetary and financial policy are being agreed, including the size of the budget deficit, the money supply, and so on.

Finally, the granting of the first EFF tranche will only become possible after the fulfilment of certain preliminary conditions, which are basically designed to form additional sources of income for the budget and to liberalize future foreign economic activities. In particular, it is envisaged that "Gazprom's" stabilization fund, all export duties, and the government's December decree stipulating the introduction of quality control for export products, will all be abolished.

Sergey Vasilyev, deputy head of the Russian delegation in the talks with the IMF, considers that it will not be all that difficult for Russia to fulfill the preliminary conditions, and the IMF has already received corresponding assurances from the Russian premier. In Vasilyev's opinion it will prove more difficult to contrive not to adopt — before the agreement's signing — new decisions that would render this signing impossible.

In reply to a question from IZVESTIYA about the degree to which the dialogue with the IMF had been complicated by the recent reshuffles in the Russian Government and in particular by the departure from all state posts of former head of the Russian delegation in the talks with the IMF Anatoliy Chubays, Maksim Boyko said:

"People in the IMF are alarmed by Chubays' departure but they intend to judge the situation in Russia on the basis of concrete facts. The following situation would be completely unacceptable to the IMF: They sign a three-year agreement with us and after three months our budget is derailed. This would be an absolutely monstrous blow to their authority."

Questions about the extended credit might arise if during the final months of the previous agreement with

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the IMF — on standby credit — Russia violates the corresponding program. Such a danger might prove to be absolutely real if you take into consideration the series of decisions on expenditure that are being adopted in the period of election campaigning by all branches of power.

To the credit of the Russian Government, it should be pointed out that last year Russia met all the program's targets in spite of a similar threat. Which, incidentally, happened for the first time and was in Maksim Boyko's opinion "one of the staggering successes of 1995." At least, "the IMF was in shock."

Nevertheless, it is early days yet to celebrate our achievements. Any violations of the standby program in its final two months or any failure to fulfill the EFF program, might have grave consequences for the Russian budget and Russian finances as a whole. A refusal to grant extended credit will cost the 1996 budget much more than $3 billion. It is likely that a refusal to restructure Russian debts will follow shortly after — and that would entail $7 billion additional expenditure from the budget. Serious difficulties may also arise in connection with the implementation of the Russian Government's plans to sell state securities on international markets. This accounts for another $2 billion.

If everything goes smoothly, events may develop as follows. The Russian Government and Central Bank joint statement is signed. Russia fulfills the extended credit program's preliminary conditions. The IMF board of directors adopts its decision. And the funding begins. It is expected that we might receive the first tranche in April.

Russia: Novosibirsk Plant To Supply Iran With Nuclear Fuel

LD0702201996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2002 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (ITAR-TASS) — A nuclear power plant in Bushehr to be built under a Russian-Iranian contract will receive fuel from a Novosibirsk-based chemical plant, a Russian high-ranking official said.

Yevgeniy Mikerin of the Ministry of Nuclear Power Engineering told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday that the plant makes fuel cassettes for Chernobyl-type VVER-1000 reactors, one of which will be built in Bushehr.

The plant will begin to make fuel in four years, that is a year before the reactor is due to begin operation.

Mikerin noted that Iran's order will allow the plant to keep its personnel and increase production figures.

The almost 800 million U.S. dollar contract to build the nuclear power plant was signed by Russia and Iran on January 12, 1995 and became effective a year later.

Russia: Ambassador Safari on Iran's Revolution Anniversary

LD0702225996 Tehran IRNA in English 2208 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb. 7, IRNA — Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mehdi Safari, said here on Wednesday that today the whole world, even the enemies of the Islamic revolution, acknowledge the grandeur of the Islamic republic and the firm pillars on which it was founded.

He made the statement on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution at a ceremony in the Russian capital.

Safari pointed out that every moment the enemies of the Islamic revolution are on the retreat as a result of its growing stability, but they do not dare to express their defeat openly.

He stressed that despite the U.S. economic sanctions, Iran has made enormous progress and implemented several development projects in various fields especially in the sectors of oil, industry and railway.

Russia: Agreement Signed With Iraq on Oil Drilling, Training

LD0702225596 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 2200 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russia and Iraq have signed an agreement to cooperate in prospecting, extracting, and refining oil, and in training oil technicians. The deal comes after the start in New York on Tuesday [6 February] of talks to ease the international oil embargo against Iraq.

Russia: Minister Karasin on Israeli Diplomat's 'Expulsion'

MM0802093596 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Home to Israel at the Lubyanka's Request"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rumors that the Russian authorities have asked Israel to recall a diplomat from its Moscow Embassy have been confirmed. But the sides' official spokesmen have refused categorically to name him.

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At a routine briefing Grigoriy Karasin, the always well-informed director of the Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, clearly had no intention of making a statement in this connection. On learning, however, that the major newspapers in Israel had raised a fuss in defense of their compatriot, the Russian diplomat nonetheless commented: "There are very diverse reasons and grounds in diplomatic practice why diplomats or employees of a particular state are obliged to terminate their tour of duty early. As a rule, this is decided between the Foreign Ministry and the relevant state's embassy on a 'gentlemanly' basis and is not publicized." Since this fact has been made public, it can be thought, in Grigoriy Karasin's opinion, that there are forces with an interest in complicating bilateral Russian-Israeli relations.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has been unable to confirm the fact that the Israeli diplomat has been expelled for "activities incompatible with his status" and been declared persona non grata. Russian counterintelligence, proceeding from some considerations of its own, has refused to comment on the claim that the diplomat sent out from Israel is involved with Israel's special services. Although, of course, suspicious foreigners are usually expelled at the Lubyanka's request.

Ya'aqov Livni, press secretary at the Embassy of the State of Israel in Moscow, was more candid. Confirming the very fact that Moscow had "asked Tel Aviv to recall an Israeli diplomatic employee from Russia," he said that his colleague at the embassy had not been declared an undesirable person. It follows from his words that the diplomat was not spying but simply "failed to observe the generally accepted diplomatic norms of conduct." The unnamed Israeli was to have completed his stay in Moscow this summer. The Russian side, so it turns out, has suggested to Israel that the present situation be resolved in the process of upcoming negotiations.

Representatives of the Israeli mass media in Moscow and Tel Aviv have told the editorial office that they, too, do not know the name of the offending Israeli diplomat.

Russia: Tit-for-Tat Sequel to Israeli's Recall Expected

MM0802094496 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Yelena Ovcharenko: "Scandal: Not Everyone Can Offend a Spy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia still has "blank spots" as far as the foreign special services are concerned! Fresh confirmation of this was provided by news agencies' report that an Israeli diplomat — his name has not been divulged — who was engaging in espionage, has been urgently asked to leave our country ahead of schedule.

We learned from trustworthy sources that he was caught red-handed two weeks ago in the middle of an espionage operation. Without declaring the "diplomat" persona non grata," he was quietly and tactfully asked to leave the country within 24 hours.

Why has a story two weeks old been made public now? And who is responsible for this leak? Interestingly enough it was not Moscow but quite official sources in the Israeli capital.

Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, commented on this situation, confining himself to making the following statement "Countries do not make an incident public if they have no interest in it's overshadowing their relations."

Let me add on my own account: The fact that the spy scandal has been made public is most likely evidence that there may be a sequel. The "leak" is part of a complex game that Israel is entering into. The departure of a "diplomat" from a host country often develops into "tit-for-tat actions" by the world's intelligence services.

Russia: Further on 'Fleet Specialist' Arrested for Treason

LD0702181096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1659 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Aleksandr Nikitin, captain first rank retired, a former officer of the Northern Fleet, really has been arrested and is at present in a remand cell in the St. Petersburg Directorate of the Federal Security Service on Liteynyy Prospect. He has been accused under Article 64a of the Russian Criminal Code (treason against the motherland). This report which ITAR-TASS heard earlier from unofficial sources was confirmed today in Russia's Federal Security Service.

Aleksandr Nikitin, a nuclear fleet specialist, worked under contract with the Norwegian ecological group "Bellona." The Federal Security Service reported that it was possible that in the course of the investigation into this criminal case, which is being conducted by the investigation service of the Federal Security Service directorate for St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region, other people will be found who were also accomplices in Nikitin's illegal activities.

Asked to comment on the involvement in the incident by representatives of the Norwegian ecological grouping

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Bellona, Aleksandr Zdanovich, acting head of the Public Relations Center of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, noted that this situation is by no means new. He recalled that at the end of November 1995 representatives of the Federal Security Service gave detailed explanations about those aspects of the activities of Bellona and its officials which "go beyond the framework of the interests of the ecological organization and violate Russian laws."

As far back as October last year, when some of the material collected by the organization was confiscated, with the permission of the prosecutor's office, in Murmansk, the security bodies warned that they contained information "comprising a state secret." At a news conference held in Moscow after that incident the leaders and activists of Bellona said that they had been seeking information only "about the radioactive pollution of Russia."

However, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed by competent bodies that it became clear, during the preliminary investigation, that the confiscated material contained information about the basing of the Northern Fleet's nuclear submarines, the number of military units stationed in that area, and a number of other facts which were of interest not only to ecologists.

Russia: Largest Aircraft Deal To Be Signed With PRC

MK0702151896 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 1, 4

[Report by Aleksandr Koretskiy: "China Will Be Manufacturing Russian Airplanes On Its Own"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company for the Export and Import of Arms and Military Hardware has neither denies nor confirms the information about selling to the PRC a license to manufacture the latest Su-27 fighter-interceptors. This was a company official's comment, given to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent, on the statement of Petr Deynekin, Air Force commander in chief, about the conclusion of a military contract worth over $2 billion, the largest one in Russian history. In the opinion of KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, the wording of the company's answer means that this contract does exist. For the first time since the late 1960's, Russia is ready to resume the export of its military high technology. The implications of this decision are ambiguous. Su-27 is a transcontinental fighter, capable of reaching Moscow, with one air refueling, within 2.5 hours after taking off from a Beijing airfield. Some experts also believe that, having sold the license, Russia will lose its control over the promising PRC's combat aviation market as soon as in six to seven years.

For a long time now, China has been very eagerly buying various Russian armament systems ranging from the latest models of small arms and BMP-3 [infantry fighting vehicle] to submarines and air defense systems. In August 1992, the PRC purchased 26 Su-27 planes, having paid about $1 billion ($35 million per airplane). Beijing, however, declined services of Russian flight instructors and said that "its own instructors," who had learned how to fly a Su-27 at one of CIS Air Force schools, would deal with the training of pilots.

The airplanes produced such a favorable impression on the Chinese military that in early 1993 it asked Moscow to sell it a license for their production. The Russian authorities, however, refused because a heated discussion was on among experts as to whether military high technology should be open for export. In the course of 1993-1995, Beijing was not losing hope to acquire the cherished license and used every opportunity to remind Moscow about this. Everything seems to indicate now that, under the pressure of lobbyists from the military-industrial complex, the decision on its export has been finally made.

The conditions of the sale to China of a license to manufacture Su-27's are yet unknown to KOMMERSANT-DAILY. It is equally unclear yet the manufacture of what specific Su-27 modification is licensed under the contract. Meanwhile, an answer to this question is of a fundamental importance because the latest aircraft models produced by the Sukhoy Experimental Design Office [EDO], besides possessing unrivaled specifications, are unavailable yet even to the Russian Air Force. Specifically, by the end of 1995, only 12 multipurpose fighters Su-35 (same as Su-27M) were manufactured. Its capabilities are superior to those of most of the latest models of Western fighters — F-22A (United States) and EF-2000 ("Eurofighter") — which have not yet been even flight tested. Still, even if the contract deals with the export model of Su-27, which, in addition to China, has been also sold to Vietnam (six planes), some experts contacted by KOMMERSANT-DAILY believe that this deal will jeopardize both military and economic interests of Russia.

There is, however, another aspect of the deal. First, the sale of the license will give Russia $2 billion. In addition, aircraft enterprises in Novosibirsk, Komsomolsk, and Irkutsk will receive large orders for the production of component parts during the next 18-24 months (selling a license, as a rule, implies that the production of military equipment will be gradually transferred to local facilities). It cannot be ruled out either that Russia's

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Sukhoy EDO will retain its rights for the assembly of AL-31FM engines, which is a specific feature of the design of the entire Su-27 family.

As KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned, the Russian authorities are well aware of long-term consequences of the sale of the license: Sooner or later, Chinese-made Su-27's will appear on the world market of armaments and will be competing with the Russian aircraft. Their cost, however, will be lower. The accepted licensing practices envision that the seller and the buyer of a license are to share profit from selling equipment to third countries — of course, if an appropriate provision has been made in the Su-27 contract.

As for the leakage of military know-how, experts in the field of aircraft industry assured KOMMERSANT-DAILY that any military equipment manufactured on license is a replica of the original not containing the most important modifying elements. In other words, according to them, the purchase of a license to manufacture the Su-27 by China means that the Chinese Air Force will be made dependent on the Sukhoy EDO because in the future Russia will be able to receive additional funds for every modification of "Chinese" Su-27's. Incidentally, a precedent has already been created: the program of modification of MiG-21-93 in India.

The license sale contract is opening enormous prospects for enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex as a whole. By all appearances, the Russian political and military leaders have made a final decision on the issue of exporting military technology. Is this good or bad, you may ask? An expert told KOMMERSANT-DAILY yesterday that this decision is indicative of a sensible approach to the dilemma which the Russian military-industrial complex has been facing in the course of the past five years: either to carry military secrets to the grave or, on permission of the government, agree to a partial disclosure of know-how in the field of armaments and, at the expense of funds raised from selling it, retain obvious priorities in creating advanced armament systems.

The deal will probably also have some foreign policy implications since Southeast Asia is now becoming, militarily and politically, one of the most "heated" regions. This is due to the dispute over the Spratly Islands, the problem of Taiwan, and the intricate relations between China and India, with the latter, incidentally, now considering a possibility of buying several two-seat multifunctional Su-30 fighters. The sale of the license to manufacture Su-27's can further stimulate a regional arms race and permit some countries in the region to get rid of the idea to create a regional security system because Su-27 planes allow their owner to control reliably air and sea communications far beyond its territory and territorial waters.

According to information available to KOMMERSANT-DAILY, the contract itself has not been signed yet, but its main provisions have been agreed on. Most probably, it will be signed in April-May, during Boris Yeltsin's planned visit to the PRC.

Russia: Satellite Agreement Reached With U.S. Company Loral

LD0702163596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (PIA-INTERFAX) — The Russian company Gazprom, space rocket corporation Energiya and Gazkom company and the U.S. corporations Loral and Space System/Loral will sign an agreement on Thursday on strategic partnership in launching telecommunication satellites and satellite communication systems.

Gazprom's press service has said the agreement will be signed by the companies' leaders at a formal meeting near Kaliningrad, near Moscow.

The source said the agreement would provide for the joint production of Yamal-type communication and television satellites. The geostationary satellites will be assembled at Energiya facilities with the use of payload components supplied by Space Systems/Loral.

The official also said that apart from the international treaty, the Russian participants in the meeting would conclude between themselves an agreement on cooperation to improve the technological complex of Russia's gas industry on the basis of space technologies.

Gazprom is currently working on a project launched in 1993 to deploy its own communication and television system for the population of Russia's remote oil and gas producing regions. Two additional Yamal satellites of a new generation are scheduled to be launched in 1997 to become part of Gazprom's communication network. The Yamal system consists of three dozen ground satellite communication stations. By the end of 1996, another 60 such stations are to be commissioned.

Russia: Talks With Ukraine on Oil Tariffs Unsuccessful

LD0702163296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (PIA-INTERFAX) — The Russian-Ukrainian talks on tariffs for Russian oil exports via Ukraine to Hungary, the

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Czech Republic and Slovakia have brought no results, well-informed sources told the INTERFAX Petroleum Information Agency. The talks were held in Moscow behind closed doors.

The sides, however, did sign a protocol on the outcome of the talks, but details are so far unknown.

Another source told the Petroleum Information Agency that the opinions of the two sides failed to coincide on every item of the talks' agenda. The source did not exclude the possibility that the sides may later disavow the protocol.

The Ukrainian experts have left for Kiev.

The average 10 percent rise in Kiev tariffs for the transportation of Russian export oil via the Druzhba pipeline (up to $5.2 per tonne) has provoked Russian criticism and led to the suspension of oil exports for several days.

Negotiations on oil transportation tariffs were started in Kiev on January 22, suspended until early February and then moved to Moscow.

Russia: Chubays Cited on Zyuganov's Performance in Davos

LD0702230796 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The results of the World Economic Forum in Davos and the involvement of eminent Russian politicians of both a democratic and a left-wing persuasion and their pronouncements in Switzerland continue to attract the attention of the mass media. Anatoliy Chubays, who has just returned from Davos and came to the Ostankino television center direct from Sheremetyevo airport is a guest of our "Vremya" program today. Anatoliy Borisovich, what is your overall assessment of the economic forum?

[Chubays] You know, perhaps the key issue at the forum was the Russian issue, and interest in Russia and, let us be blunt, concern at what is happening in our country were evident in the speeches of leading politicians, journalists and entrepreneurs. Throughout the session on Russia very many people came along and took an interest in what is happening. The central question that was put to the official Russian delegation, which was led by economics minister Yevgeniy Grigorovich Yasin, was whether the course of economic reform would be continued. Russia's stated position that the course would continue was to some extent a calming factor.

Fairly specific matters were also discussed. Among these I should like to note the very important question of the conclusion of a credit agreement with the IMF. Although the visit to the U.S. of the delegation led by Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin had only just finished, this topic was constantly raised in Davos, and, let me say frankly, in both informal talks and in official statements I said that it is extremely important to resolve this matter. Russia and indeed the entire world need this.

[Announcer] IZVESTIYA said that you were the main and perhaps the only serious opponent of Gennadiy Zyuganov, who cast a spell over many people at the World Economic Forum. What then made you speak out about the position of the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation?

[Chubays] You know, I followed very attentively what Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov was saying there in Davos, and, the more I did so, the more I was — oh, I don't know precisely what word to use — struck or filled with admiration. It was the fifth time that I had attended Davos, but, let me say outright, throughout all the five years of my attendance in Davos I had not managed to give as many promises to foreigners as esteemed Comrade Zyuganov gave during the five days of his visit. His promises had it all, including lowering taxation, stable conditions for foreign investment, a stable political situation in Russia, and guaranteed rights for private ownership. So many things were promised that I even pondered whether it was not time for me to join the communist party, if it is really adopting such positions. However, after checking statements by the same Mr. Zyuganov here in Russia and looking at the text of the party's program I merely took the simple and obvious move of inviting along those journalists who wanted to talk with me and put two texts alongside each other; one saying what Zyuganov is proposing abroad for foreign consumption and the other saying what Zyuganov is proposing inside Russia for internal consumption. It was because the differences were so striking that this produced simply a bombshell effect.

[Announcer] Thank you.

[Chubays] Thank you.

Russia: Zyuganov Rejects Chubays Criticism of Him in Davos

LD0702231996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Here now is how Gennadiy Zyuganov responded to Anatoliy Chubays's criticisms in Davos, when our correspondent met him.

[Correspondent] Are you aware of the critical things Chubays said about you in Davos?

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[Zyuganov] When a person says that Zyuganov says one thing in Davos and another in Russia, he simply does not understand what he is saying. Foreign correspondents have already been following me all around the country, and during the election campaign I held almost 300 meetings, at which there was a minimum of five or six correspondents who filmed, saw and heard everything, and it was all a long time ago shown to us on television and published in the press. Therefore when he says this, it is simply the outcome of his fear. He knows very well that our party has enormous prestige and support. Any industrialist, entrepreneur or politician in the West has respect for the party with almost 40 percent of the votes in a legislative assembly or parliament because of its influence in respect of policy, taxation, finance, investments and much else. Therefore, whatever Chubays may have said is of no importance to us in the present situation.

Russia: Proceedings at Polish-Russian Roundtable Reported

MM0702162896 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Kiryanov under "Roundtable" rubric: "'We Are Persuading the Russians That We Pose No Threat to Them.' ZYCIE WARSZAWY Carries Report Under That Headline on Two-Day Sittings of First Polish-Russian Roundtable, Which Ended Last Sunday in Warsaw"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Warsaw — The headline from ZYCIE WARSZAWY accurately reflects the mood in respect of Poland's eastern neighbor. Because the word "threat" is to be found particularly frequently in the local mass media. If, for example, mention is made of the alleged "cooperation with the Russians" on the part of former Premier Jozef Oleksy, the emphasis clearly shifts to accusations against Russian intelligence of deliberate provocation. And also when there is talk of Poland's joining NATO. And even with respect to economic projects. There are imagined threats everywhere. And so, there they were in the headers of articles devoted to the Warsaw meeting between Polish and Russian scientists, politicians, and public figures and statesmen. Their speeches are eagerly and verbosely commented on by the Polish press and on television. Although journalists were not given a great deal of opportunity, to put it mildly, to be present at the actual debates taking place in the government hotel building.

What was discussed there? The main subjects included processes occurring in Poland and Russia, mutual relations between our countries, and their place in European and world systems. What the chief of the Polish diplomatic department, Dariusz Rosati, said, is worth noting: Welcoming the participants, he stressed that side by side with membership of NATO and the European Union, the main strategic aim of Polish policy is good relations with its neighbors. And of these, Russia is of special significance for Poland.

The minister also advised that there be no pretense that there have been no misunderstandings or differences of opinion between us in the approach to questions of ensuring European security. Obviously, there are still many prejudices left over from the difficult past. However, in his opinion, while not forgetting the past, we must look into the future. The press noted Rosati's belief that the "Premier Oleksy affair," and the talk about the role of the Russian special services in it, should not affect our countries' mutual relations. Let us hope so!

Needless to say, the idea of organizing such a meeting was very timely. There was so much to discuss! If nothing else, take the real "cast-iron" question of Poland's desire to join NATO. Jumping the gun, I would note: It is scarcely possible that anyone could have seriously counted on accord during the roundtable. In fact, it all ended in an acknowledgment of the differences of opinion on the NATO issue. The main thing lies elsewhere. A commentator on Polish television noted with satisfaction that Russian politicians are no longer treating Poland's wish to join the North Atlantic alliance as a hostile act against Russia.

In the opinion of the Russian participants, the fact that our viewpoints differ must not be dramatized. This is not a tragedy but a subject for talks. It is important for Poland not to consider our policy to be hostile toward it. But a European security system must emerge in the future which will not isolate Russia....

Many participants indicated the need to seek compromise and stop the mutual intimidation. Both guests and hosts. A definite rebuke for the press came from the lips of Andrzej Drawicz, the Polish premier's adviser. He stated that in many respects it is the mass media of both countries that are to blame for the deterioration in Polish-Russian relations. I think there is reason in these words. And in the suggestion to meet again at a roundtable. You will see, the ice will break!

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Russia: Dniester Troop Pullout Begins; 'Squabbling' Goes On

MM0702125796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova: "Trains Head East. Withdrawal of Russian Equipment and Troops Begins"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chisinau — This year's first trains carrying military equipment of the Russian Forces Operations Group have left Tiraspol for a central base in the Moscow region.

According to General Yevnevich, commander of the Operations Group, the transportation has been coordinated with both Moldova and Ukraine and neither has any objections. He confirmed that some property is being transferred to Tiraspol and some to Chisinau.

"The transfer mechanism is being worked out," V. Zibrov, the Russian Embassy's military attache in Moldova, told me. "So far there are only lists of what people are getting."

The day before the train departed there was a report from the local BASA-PRESS agency saying that in the near future apparently "some ammunition for Uragan and Grad multiple rocket launchers belonging to the Operations Group of Russian Forces in the Dniester Region will be handed over to the Tiraspol authorities." In connection with this the press service of the Russian Federation Embassy in Moldova stated that "this information is a completely groundless and mendacious fabrication."

Be that as it may, the trains have headed east. It is planned to send 19 of them in all. Equipment is leaving and the Russian Operations Group, cut to the bone, still remains. An agreement on the final withdrawal has been signed but zero hour has not yet struck. The countdown for the three-year withdrawal will begin if the agreement is ratified by the State Duma. Russian officials are also linking the withdrawal with a political settlement to the Dniester region conflict. It has not yet been decided in what form and according to what formula the Dniester region is to exist within a united and indivisible Moldova. As of today the talks process has stalled.

In Chisinau itself domestic squabbling is going on. The Moldovan parliament has formed a special commission to investigate the reasons for the Dniester region conflict, which has provoked the unconcealed anger of President M. Snegur. Accusing P. Lucinschi, the chairman of parliament, of irresponsibility, he considers the formation of any commissions "absolutely undesirable" and suspects parliamentarians of intending to wreck the talks process. The deputies gave as good as they got. Parliament's permanent office regarded the president's position as an "attempt to cause discord in society and the desire to own exclusive rights to the truth." As regards the commission's formation, the deputies reminded Snegur that in his fall speech to them the president himself urged them to return once again to the Dniester region's problems.

Russia: Taleban Decide 'in Principle' To Free Russian Airmen

LD0802075396 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0230 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The council of the Afghan opposition movement Taleban, which is holding [word indistinct] Russian airmen, has decided in principle to release them. A spokesman of the Kazan Airline [several words indistinct], who had once again visited Kandahar, was told this by the Russian airmen themselves. However, they said a precise date for their liberation has not yet been set.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Seen Preparing To Amend Domestic Policy

LD0802112996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — President Yeltsin's intention to make public his plan of a peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis at about the same time — in mid-February — as his planned announcement on whether or not he will run for presidency for the second term, can hardly be a mere coincidence. Neither it is accidental that Oleg Lobov said on Wednesday after a meeting of the Security Council that the exchange of views on the Chechnya problem there had actually been a preparation for the forthcoming address of the President.

The recent instruction of President Yeltsin on increasing pensions and scholarships for students, as well as on paying wage debts, also shows that the President began to take action in anticipation of the forthcoming elections. At the same time, it is obvious that the 1996 budget will not sustain the financing of the social programmes of the President, if enormous expenditures on combat operations in Chechnya are not stopped. The grim truth consists in the fact that the more the war is going on — the more money will be needed from the budget for the restoration of what has been destroyed in Chechnya. The correctness of an old saying that it is far easier to destroy than to build, is confirmed by the necessity to allocate 16 trillion roubles for the repair of the Chechen power system and transport communications alone.

Even Aleksandr Livshits, Yeltsin's aide for economic affairs, is protesting against the allocation of money for Chechnya from the investment funds, which is an indication that even the closest associates of President Yeltsin are coming to realise that the war means not only the loss of life, but also a most serious threat to the continuation of the reform.

According to Kremlin sources, Yeltsin's visit to Yekaterinburg, his native city, next week, where he is expected to make important statements, as well as the content of the presidential address to the Federal Assembly, which is being drawn up, may initiate radical changes in the home policy, pursued by the President. It may become an impressive beginning of his electoral campaign.

Russia: Yeltsin Criticizes Work of Special Services

LD0702161396 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Feb 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast; report by S. Zenin; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Video shows Boris Yeltsin speaking at Security Council meeting, members of the council sitting at a table] The threat to Russia's technological safety can be perceived in terms of both strategy and time, President Boris Yeltsin told the Security Council today.

[Yeltsin] "Any country ensures its advantage in competition, not by leading in a technology in its own right, but by the speed and level of spread of this technology for use in the economy and in military hardware."

[Zenin] [passage omitted] The head of state pointed out that foreign special services have boosted their activity in the area of new technologies and criticized the work of Russian special services. The president instructed leaders of the special services to prepare proposals aimed at improving the procedures for the use of scientific and technical information in the interests of technological rearmament.

[Yeltsin] "Analysis has revealed that unfortunately, we are extremely bad at using what foreign intelligence has to offer us."

[Zenin] The president instructed the government to develop a system of restructuring Russian science and of concentrating its efforts in priority fields. Improving the system of higher education and professional training must become an important direction in Russia's new scientific, technical, and technological policy, Boris Yeltsin pointed out.

[Yeltsin] "I recently visited the Moscow State Technical University and looked deeply into things. I saw some students' projects and I must say they were at the highest technological and professional level. However, they are not being used because there is some kind of mistrust toward students, feeling that they can't do serious work. But this was serious work, which could bring to the state profits and income of millions and hundreds of millions of rubles." [passage omitted]

Russia: Soskovets Reports on Ensuring Technological Security

LD0702154396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1507 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets

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in a report to Russia's National Security Council on Wednesday set out government measures to ensure the country's technological security as well as steps to develop an appropriate legal groundwork.

He said the concept of technological security was wide-ranging, covering all areas of the economy and people's lives. Soskovets said the concept includes industrial safety, intellectual property protection and prevention of the spread of weapons of mass destruction. He called for retaining Russia's positions in the area of advanced technologies and manufacture of vital products.

Soskovets described the subsequent Council debate as being constructive, adding that concrete and far-reaching decisions were taken. He said the government is instructed to devise a scientifically-grounded concept of the country's technological security. From Russia during talks in Brussels at the end of last year."

According to ministry estimates, the EU set a quota of ECU 140 million on Russian textile exports compared to ECU 580 million worth of textile imports from the EU ($1 equals ECU 1.33). "This is a case of clear discrimination," Kushnerenko said.

He said Moscow was being forced to retaliate in order to protect home producers.

Experts suggest that a quota of $250 million be imposed on imports of ready made clothes from EU states, but Kushnerenko said the figure could run at $140 million-$150 million according to planned quotas for the second quarter of 1996.

He also said the commission for protectionist measures was also considering a 5 percent cut in imports of some types of lighting equipment and advanced cash registers and components to them in order to protect domestic producers.

More in INTERFAX Business Review of February 9.

Russia: Yeltsin To Announce Decision on Second Term 15 Feb

LD0802113096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1114 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will announce whether or not he is going to stand for a second term in Yekaterinburg on 15 February, he told journalists today.

"I have decided to announce whether to stand for a second term not in Moscow but in Yekaterinburg on 15 February, as I promised," Boris Yeltsin told journalists before meeting the administration heads of regions and territories.

The president said that after Yekaterinburg he will visit Chelyabinsk next week.

Russia: Yeltsin To Consult Regional Heads on Candidacy

LD0702184296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will consult the heads of the Russian regions on his possible running for re-election at their meeting planned for Thursday February 8, Chairman of the Russian Federation Council (parliament's upper chamber) Yegor Stroyev said at a press conference in Moscow today.

The presidential elections in Russia are scheduled for June 16, 1996.

The governors will raise issues concerning the financial situation in the regions, overdue wages and pensions at their meeting with Yeltsin, Stroyev said.

With regard to his relations with Yeltsin and State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev, Stroyev said the relations "have always been good and will be good because I am a man absolutely free from conflict."

"My personal relations with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin started much earlier than his becoming the president," Stroyev said.

Regarding the Russian Security Council, Stroyev said parliament must adopt a bill on the Russian Security Council, determine its make-up and enable it to coordinate the activities of all state organs.

The Russian president removed former State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin and former Federation Council chairman Vladimir Shumeyko from the Russian Security Council last Thursday.

Presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev told journalists that the provision on the Russian Security Council does not indicate whether the chairmen of the federal parliament's two chambers must be members of the Council. The president will "make a decision himself if he deems it necessary for the heads of the Federal Assembly [parliament] to participate in the work of the Security Council," Medvedev said.

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Russia: Premier Pledges NDR Support in Yeltsin Campaign

LD0802105296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 8 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — In the next few days Russian President Boris Yeltsin will announce his decision to run for a second term, Russia Is Our Home [NDR] leader Viktor Chernomyrdin said today at a meeting of the movement's political council.

In the current political situation, he said, the prime minister must not be allowed to put forward his candidacy at the presidential election, too. In the process of preparation for the election, the Russian prime minister stressed, "we must do everything to support the candidacy of Boris Yeltsin." "The Russia Is Our Home movement can and must voice its support for the initiative groups which have put forward Boris Yeltsin as candidate and it will be able to make a wieghty contribution to the collection of 1 million signatures in his favor," Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Action Committee Submits Documents

LD0702195796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — The Central Electoral Commission has received documents from a St. Petersburg-based action committee which has proposed Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin as a presidential candidate, Olga Zastrozhnaya, a member of the commission, told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

She said that within five days the commission must check the documents and decide on the registration of the action committee and its deputies.

Under the law on presidential elections, before a presidential candidate is registered as such, his consent to run is not required, said Zastrozhnaya.

Previously, Chernomyrdin has repeatedly denied that he will run for the Russian presidency.

Russia: Premier Not To Rival Yeltsin for Presidency

LD0702181796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1740 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, today replied to this question he was asked by a group of journalists: "Over the past few days there have been reports from a number of Russia's regions that initiative groups have been set up to put you forward as a presidential candidate at the forthcoming elections. What is your reaction to this?" In connection with this Viktor Chernomyrdin stated:

"First of all, of course, I would like to express thanks for the confidence that has been shown. This is, of course, an assessment of the work of the government.

"At the same time, I would like to say: As a human being and as a man, it would be difficult, indeed simply impossible, for me to renounce the principles of comradeship, to renounce everything that I have gone through over the past three years which I have spent working side by side with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. If the incumbent president makes his choice to stand for a second term, then, of course, I do not wish to be and I shall not be his rival.

"As head of government I implement what is precisely the president's policy of reforms. And no other. Therefore, support for my candidacy is, in essence, according to political logic, primarily support for the president."

Russia: CPRF Collects 1.5 Million Signatures for Zyuganov

MM0802095996 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "1.5 Million Signatures Collected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the "Communist Party of the Russian Federation" [CPRF] faction was held before yesterday's State Duma session. Valentin Kuptsov, first deputy chairman of the CPRF Central Committee, told the communist deputies that 1.5 million signatures had been collected in support of Gennadiy Andreyevich Zyuganov's candidacy for the post of president of Russia. The pages of signatures will soon be forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission.

Russia: Zyuganov Details Election Program

LD0702214996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1750 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Feb (ITAR-TASS) — To support Zyuganov's nomination as a presidential candidate, 1,393,673 signatures have already been collected, Duma deputy Svetlana Savitskaya, one of the leaders of the campaign group to promote Zyuganov's nomination, said today.

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Today, members of the group had their second meeting with Zyuganov at his own request, at the Central House of Journalists. At the meeting, at which he behaved, in effect, like a [presidential] candidate, Zyuganov outlined some elements of his election program although he reminded [the audience] that the final decision on the nomination of the "left-of-center" candidate is still to be taken on 15 February at a Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] conference.

Zyuganov said he had already held consultations on presidential nominations with "leaders of the largest parties and movements". Tomorrow he is to have another important meeting of this kind. The CPRF leader stressed it was necessary to nominate "a joint team — a president, a prime minister, and the key ministers." He said a "left-of-center" candidate has a "very good" chance of winning the presidential elections. He also said that apart from the 20 million CPRF electorate, he is expected to win another 12-15 million votes.

Zyuganov said he "is not new to power" and understands perfectly well "the full weight of responsibility borne by any candidate." To questions from members of the campaign group on his attitude towards the presidential [system of] power, he said the new head of state should make it "accountable." Nothing was said about abolishing the presidency, which the CPRF was insisting on not so long ago.

Zyuganov refused to say what his first steps as a president will be. However, he said there will be seven or eight and he mentioned some of them — fighting corruption, which will be based on compulsory declaration of income, and the ban on combining executive and legislative posts. He also mentioned combatting terrorism and organized crime, as well as tax reductions and targeted social support for those on low incomes.

Zyuganov also outlined his plan for stopping the war in Chechnya and the measures which the Communist Party believes need to be taken in relation to the media, in particular, the establishment of public control over the state television channels.

Russia: Agrarians To Back Zyuganov's Candidacy

LD0702170796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1454 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — The Agrarian Party of Russia (APR) intends to support the candidacy of Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communist Party, at the upcoming presidential elections, APR leader Mikhail Lapshin told a news conference at the State Duma on Wednesday.

He said that the latest plenary meeting of the party confirmed an intention of APR members to bloc with left-wing forces at the presidential elections. "We see Gennadiy Zyuganov as the only candidate for the presidency from this bloc," the Lapshin said.

He noted that the APR is an independent political force and talks about its disintegration after an ill-starred attempt to hurdle the 5-per cent barrier at the general elections to the Duma were grossly exaggerated.

Speaking at the news conference, Lapshin also mentioned the question of "purity of party ranks."

In this connection, he referred to the decision of the Russian Cabinet head of February 2, where Viktor Chernomyrdin instructed Aleksandr Zaveryukha (member of the APR board) to form and head the organising committee for preparation and holding of a congress of producers of the Russian agro-industrial complex, scheduled for February 24.

The same decision instructs Zaveryukha to approve the composition of the organising committee. Lapshin said that the APR should determine whether it needs a member of its board who is engaged in organising parallel structures.

Russia: Presidential Nominee Lebed Interviewed

MM0702133196 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 1

[Interview with Russian presidential candidate Aleksandr Lebed by Valeriy Otstavnykh; place and date not given: "General Lebed Ready To Become President. If Only Today!" — first paragraph is KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] He is perhaps the only one out of the whole battalion of Russian presidential candidates to have now doubts and to know no obstacles. On the other hand the possessor of the best voice in the country for issuing orders knows the answers to all the questions of daily life.

[Otstavnykh] Aleksandr Ivanovich, on what is your certainty of becoming head of state based?

[Lebed] My political youth is an appearance only. I began to engage in politics in 1990. Then came 1991 when I managed to hold back an enormous bloodletting — I consider that high-class politics. Then there was 1992 when I managed through diplomatic, political, economic, and sometimes military measures to halt the war. And thank god to this day there is peace there in

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the Dniester Region. I do indeed rate my chances as high....

[Otstavnykh] Many people are now trying to guess who Lebed is with?

[Lebed] If a man has intelligence, willpower, and professionalism, then I am a friend of his, ready to work with him. I shall not ostentatiously side with anyone...

[Otstavnykh] What is the main problem which must be resolved by the man who becomes president in June?

[Lebed] There is no elementary order in the country — no normal legal order. We need a civilized but sometimes very tough approach toward the solution of all problems. Tough, because the frenzy of crime is simply terrifying.

[Otstavnykh] In your speeches you constantly speak of the problem of drunkenness. How did you personally resolve this problem?

[Lebed] In 1993 I told myself I would no longer drink, that I would be the soberest man in the country. I made the decision and that was enough. But in Russia people drink from despair. We do not know where we are going, what we are building, or whether we are building at all.... I am sure that if you give people a goal they will still drink, but only in moderation, at celebrations, and no more.

Russia: Possible Third Left-Centrist Candidate Pondered

MM0802111396 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Boris Slavin: "How Many Names To Choose From "]

[FBIS Translated Text] The nomination of new candidates for Russian Federation president is continuing. Action groups have already named over 30. They include both well-known politicians and people suffering from a Herostratos [ancient Greek who perpetuated his name by burning down a temple] complex, like Sergey Mavrodi, the father of financial pyramids.

LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader Zhirinovskiy, General Lebed, Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, and others have already consented to participate in the presidential election. Two political heavyweights — Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov — will obviously give similar consent within the next few days. It is possible that Yeltsin will do so during a trip to Yekaterinburg.

The most farsighted presidential candidates realize that their personal ratings are insufficient for outright victory in the presidential election. They are therefore already trying to mold a variety of political forces in their support. Despite certain ideological contradictions among the communist parties, Zyuganov's candidacy has already been supported by O. Shenin, V. Anpilov, A. Kryuchkov, A. Prigarin, and other leaders of communist parties and movements. But the possibility cannot be ruled out that Nikolay Ryzhkov and also, at the last stage of the presidential race, Aleksandr Lebed will in the final analysis enter a bloc with the CPRF.

Intensive negotiations are being conducted among radical democrats on the pooling of forces. It is possible that, despite their condemnation of Boris Yeltsin for his Chechen adventure, he will also be supported by Gaydar's Russia's Choice and by a number of other organizations of a "democratic" tendency. I do not rule out the possibility that V. Zhirinovskiy and his party might cast their votes for the incumbent president at the second stage of the election.

Yabloko leader G. Yavlinskiy is in a difficult position. He has, of course, no chance of getting into the final of the presidential election. So he will be faced at the finish with the problem of where to cast his own supporters' votes — for Yeltsin or Zyuganov? This situation is quite likely to arise if the left-centrists do not unite very soon with certain enlightened patriots and nominate a single candidate of their own. Who could that candidate be? I do not rule out the possibility that he should be sought among such names as Sv. Fedorov, St. Govorukhin, V. Zorkin, and others. Then, at the finish, it is perfectly possible that Yavlinskiy will cast his votes for that candidate.

We will soon find out whether the presidential election is to be a choice between two or three names.

Russia: Health of Presidential Hopefuls Eyed

MM0802112096 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 96 pp 1,2

[Report by Vasiliy Ustyuzhanin: "Analysis of the 'Mighty Group' shows that the Presidential Candidates Are as Fit as a Fiddle!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The heightened interest in the health of politicians is based on bitter experience. It makes you feel envious to look at Clinton, who is bursting with youth and good health, the smart Gonzales, and the lean Major. And even Boris Yeltsin got where he is because outwardly he looked convincing — tall, broad-shouldered, and with a resounding voice. Our first president was clearly not on his last legs. So what about today?

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Five years on the throne have thoroughly undermined Boris Nikolayevich's physical strength. There were the tests of August 1991, October 1993, and December 1995 (Chechnya) — handsome Bill would not want Yeltsin's nervous strain! The president's movements from the hospital to the sanatorium, from the sanatorium to the Kremlin and back again have been the butt of gossip and bad jokes. The president himself is giving assurances that he is perfectly all right now. This is possible... It is possible that he will play tennis, swim, taste some wine, and take steam baths. But public interest in his state of health will be all the more intent.

And now it is not just a question of his health. There is also the health of those who intend to fight him for the presidential post. Now this concerns every one of us. An ailing president means an ailing country. Everyone has seen the depressing fact of this link during the past few decades. What is the state of the current presidential candidates? What ailments do they have to deal with?

Gennadiy Zyuganov. Chairman of the Russian Communist Party Central Committee, 51. Physical data: height — 180 cm, weight 102 kg (as of 5 February, before his return from Davos).

The country's chief communist and Yeltsin's main rival was born two months premature. "Like Churchill" — he hints broadly. But that was not Zyuganov's last test of physical strength. In the Army Zyuganov spent one year out of three in a gas mask and rubber boots — he served in a nuclear attack reconnaissance platoon. "I used to carry radioactive dust in my hands. I wore out three pairs of boots there." Most likely Gennadiy Andreyevich's complete transformation of hairstyle a la Ilyich is connected with the specific nature of his army service. At least on his wedding photos he still has all his hair. As Zyuganov himself maintains, service in the army caused no other irreversible complications to his health.

Zyuganov has safely withstood the current flu epidemic. According to the general secretary's security aide, Aleksandr Tarnayev, his leader did not use a single handkerchief. Meanwhile his entourage, including his bodyguard, all took to their beds, some people suffering from cold viruses, and others from flu.

Zyuganov is no ascetic. "I am not averse to a glass of champagne or good wine. But I never drink more than three shots. Admittedly, he did not specify — three shots of what. Most likely vodka, because in Russia champagne and wine does not traditionally come in shots.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the "Yabloko" faction, 43, height 182 cm, weight — 89 kg.

Yavlinskiy recently stated on television that he feels perfectly healthy and has nothing against presidential candidates undergoing medical checkups. In the 1980's he was subjected to a compulsory examination on a false diagnosis of tuberculosis — for his bold book on the economy. He languished in the Ministry of Railways hospital for nine months. Perestroyka helped him to get out of this prison. In 1989 during a trip to Japan, Yavlinskiy once again underwent an examination. He decided to check the diagnosis just in case. No tuberculosis was discovered. The Japanese specialists said that the "Russian is as fit as a fiddle."

During his years as a deputy, he did not visit a polyclinic a single time. Although he arrived in the Duma a few times with a slightly swollen face and inflamed eyes. The "Yabloko" leader has not taken any vacation for 10 years, and he works 16-18 hours a day, as his assistants maintain.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, 49, height — 180 cm, weight — 90 kg.

At a recent conference Zhirinovskiy blustered: "As far as health is concerned, I have been completely checked out. You can go to Sivtsev Vrazhek (the Kremlin polyclinic) and ask to see the results of my tests. Urine — terrific, you could drink it. Blood — wonderful. Not a single illness. It's all there."

However, Vladimir Volfovich is unfortunately prone to colds. He arrived at the first plenary sitting of the sixth Duma with signs of having had a fever. And literally the day before yesterday V.F. [as published] felt dizzy in his office in the morning. A doctor from the Duma medical center measured his blood pressure and made the following diagnosis: Exhaustion.

In his youth, Volfovich did some boxing. He likes steam baths. He drinks little. He does not smoke. He can speak without stopping for two hours at the faction's sittings. "He once spoke for almost one-and-a-half hours at a rally in Magnitogorsk in a temperature of minus 20. I nearly croaked myself. But he just kept talking," General Viktor Filatov, press secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia faction, said.

Petr Romanov, State Duma deputy, 53, height — 185 cm, weight — 90 kg.

Last year Petr Romanov had one tooth removed, and another filled. He had no other ailments. He is curing his cold by a folk remedy — by rubbing vodka into his chest. "Hale and hearty in the morning." He does not use it internally. "Twenty years ago I promised my mother that liquor would not pass my lips. He kept his promise, liquor has not passed his lips. And he does not smoke. "When I was young I was seriously involved in athletics

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— sprinting. I could run 100 meters in 11 seconds. The USSR record was 10.2 seconds at that time. And I also played hockey."

Once every six months Romanov spends two to three weeks in a sanatorium. Since he can afford it. "Treatment in a sanatorium really helps me. Special non-traditional methods — using herbs." Romanov considers himself to be perfectly healthy and "would like all the Russian population to look like him."

Aleksandr Rutskoy, 48. Height — 180 cm. Weigh 90 kg. Famous.

When asked about health Rutskoy answered shortly: "You won't see me keel over." [Ne dozhdetes] His aide Andrey Fedorov confirms that Aleksandr Vladimirovich is currently in excellent form: "He looks marvelous — he has lost 15 kg and has become slim and handsome."

But his back sometimes gives him trouble. Twice he has been shot down in an airplane. The first time in Afghanistan, when he crashed down into a ditch at low altitude and damaged his back. He was in traction in hospital for 18 months. The doctor said he would never walk again, and deemed him unfit for flying. Within three years, A. Rutskoy was flying again. The second time his airplane was shot down by the Pakistani air force and blew up in the air. Fortunately his parachute opened. He hid from the Mojahedin for four days in the mountains. On the fifth day he was found and taken captive. Our men paid the ransom. He had major nervous and physical burdens to deal with in subsequent years. Rutskoy is not suffering from flu. His heart is not causing any concern.

Svyatoslav Fedorov, 68. Height — 174 cm, weight — 94 kg.

...When he was a student at a summer school, the famous ophthalmologist was going to a dance. He jumped off the step of a tram as it was moving, and his leg was caught in the wheel. He had to give up his dreams, but always keeps in shape. He does horse-riding and swims at the "Protasovo" farm, where he now feels at home.

The ophthalmologist's eye-sight is 150 percent perfect. He can even read the 11th line at the bottom of the chart.

Galina Starovoytova, State Duma deputy — she is in her teens, and is slender and dainty.

Galina Vasilyevna — the only woman in this tough assemblage. She has admitted that she recently spent three days in bed with flu. But she did not take sick leave. She cured herself. She did not register at the polyclinic, and did not feel the need to do so. She is convinced that she can withstand any physical burden in the presidential race.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Addresses NDR Council

LD0802115196 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of the council of the All-Russia sociopolitical movement Russia Is Our Home [NDR] was held in Moscow today. Our special correspondent Regina Lukashina reports over the telephone:.

[Lukashina] Viktor Chernomyrdin, the chairman of the council, spoke at the session. Assessing the Russia Is Our Home movement's results in the elections to the State Duma, he stated that they are not big but indisputable and not bad for a young movement, although the parliamentary elections showed a lack of organization at regional and local levels. In contrast to our rivals, not everything is in good order here, Viktor Chernomyrdin said. Entering a new election campaign, he continued, even a more energetic one, it is necessary to realize that one cannot make mistakes or give false promises here. Russia will pay for the mistake. The prime minister said: "Now our movement — the movement of centrists, reformers, and those in favor of state monopoly — is a calm, stable, and well-balanced political force and this is our visiting card. We need to strengthen our positions, including organizational ones."

The prime minister drew attention to the fact that over the years of reforms, the Russian population's standards of living fell by one-third. Official unemployment exceeded 2 million people. So far the wage debt to those working in the public sector amounts to 7.5 trillion rubles. The government needs to resolve this problem no later than February. The prime minister said that unemployment and the falling standards of living caused the majority of the electorate to vote for left-wing radical parties.

Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the Russia Is Our Home faction's task in the State Duma is to oppose the attempts to disrupt the budget from within. He cited yesterday's discussion in the State Duma on indexing pensions and allowances as an example of such actions.

In conclusion the prime minister said: "I am very grateful to the action groups which want to see me as their presidential candidate but in purely human terms I am convinced that it is impossible." The prime minister said that in the next few days Boris Yeltsin would announce his decision as to whether he would stand for the second term. I believe the simultaneous nomination

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of both the current president and prime minister is inadmissible. Russia Is Our Home should do everything possible to support Boris Yeltsin's candidacy in the elections.

Russia: NDR Endorses New Executive Committee

LD0802115996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1144 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — Today's meeting of the Political Council of the "Russia is Our Home" [NDR] Movement, chaired by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, has endorsed a new composition of the Movement's Executive Committee. The latter will now be headed by Vladimir Babichev, Head of the Apparatus of the Russian Government, who will discharge this duty "on a voluntary basis", Chernomyrdin stated. Gennadiy Shipilov, who was Assistant Head of the Movement's Election HQ, was elected as Babichev's deputy. Sergey Belyayev and Vladimir Kinilev were dropped from the Executive Committee because the former heads the "Russia is Our Home" faction in the State Duma, and the latter was appointed to the post of Vice-Premier.

Chernomyrdin stressed that the perfection of the apparatus of the Movement's Executive Committee and its renovation were prompted by the fact that the previous Executive Committee was "orientated on parliamentary elections".

Russia: Zyuganov Utters 'Social-Democratic Slogans'

MM0802111996 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "CPRF Leader Continues To Proclaim Social-Democratic Slogans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the 7 February morning session of the State Duma G. Zyuganov uttered a number of slogans which were apparently intended to confirm the social-democratic orientation of the communist party he leads.

The main aim of G. Zyuganov's speech was to all appearances to dispel fears that if the Communists come to power they will begin to act like their predecessors in 1917. According to G. Zyuganov the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] does not oppose private ownership but is fighting for a mixed economy with the predomination of the state sector. There will be no total nationalization. What has been legally privatized and is operating normally should operate and the prosecutor's office should investigate cases of illegal privatization. G. Zyuganov also stated that the CPRF advocates any forms of ownership of land but is against the right to sell it.

Russia: Gaydar Criticizes 'Outburst of Economic Populism'

LD0702195996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (FIA-INTERFAX) — Russia saw an outburst of economic populism at the start of this year, the leader of the Democratic Choice of Russia (DVR) movement, Yegor Gaydar, told a press conference in Moscow Wednesday [7 February].

"The presidential team is pinning some of its hopes on the possibility of using the potential of economic stabilization achieved through last year's efforts, particularly the hard currency reserve, in the first half of the year," Gaydar said. A government moving from a strict policy of economic stabilization to that of economic populism gains much in the popularity stakes in the beginning, Gaydar said.

"The inevitable payment for populism comes later," he said. It will be possible to determine whether the Russian leadership is pursuing a course of economic populism within a short period of time by a number of factors, he said.

In the first place, one of these factors is the volume of state securities on the market, Gaydar said. "If the growth in the volume of treasury bills distributed exceeds 10 percent a month, it will mean a higher risk on this market," he said. In this case, the central bank will have to either let the bills become devalued or start to purchase them through issuing additional money. In the latter case, a disruption of the monetary program and the agreements with international financial institutions will be inevitable, he said.

Delaying the talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may be another populist factor, Gaidar said. He added the talks had already slowed down after Anatoliy Chubays' resignation as first deputy prime minister.

Gaydar expressed hopes that political and economic populism will not prevail in the pre-election period, but did not exclude the possibility that the above negative trends could emerge.

Russia: Seleznev Discusses Tasks, Political Credo

MM0702121596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 96 pp 2, 7

[Interview with State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev by Aleksandr Batygin, place and date not given:

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"Speaker Is Not a Traffic Controller, but a Key Figure in the State. So Says State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA has already congratulated its colleague — the journalist and "three times chief editor" Gennadiy Seleznev — on his election as chairman of the lower house of parliament. The current "main conductor" of the State Duma will be facing 450 deputies who are very different in terms of their political affiliations, characters, and experience of life. Conducting such an orchestra is, of course, an honor, but it is also extremely difficult. And the building on Okhotnyy Ryad [State Duma] is not a place where you can sit quietly in a presidium or in the tranquillity of an office. Or where there is applause after each concert....

The Law Above All

[Batygin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich! The previous State Duma has left a rich legacy of around 500 acts of legislation. Nonetheless, some very important constitutional laws have not been adopted. These include the law on state symbols. This provides scope for mischief. A veteran of Russian parliamentarianism has been making a point of walking around wearing the badge of a USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, saying that he does not recognize the Vlasovite flag.... In the West attitudes to the national flag are virtually sacred, but we "do not have the time" to ratify the flag and the coat of arms in law.

Nor have any constitutional laws on the government or on the human rights commissioner been adopted. Not to mention "lower-level" laws! What priorities in lawmaking activity is the current Duma setting itself?

[Seleznev] The question of state symbols is indeed a very complex one. The Russian president proposed that the last State Duma ratify it in law, but this was not done. An alternative plan was put forward and a session of the last convocation returned to the law on state symbols on two occasions. It think it will be drawn up as a priority.

A law on the government is still being drawn up — it has not even passed its first reading, although, of course, it is a priority. The law on the human rights commissioner has a real chance of going to its third reading, and I am not ruling out the possibility that it will be one of the first to be examined at the next plenary session of the house 7 February.

We have issued the entire file of laws — there are around 500 of them — to every deputy. In their committees they will be examining what was left undone by the previous Duma, and putting forward their own new legislative initiatives. I think that the Legislation Committee will put forward the new Criminal Code as a priority — it has still not been examined in full. Work will also continue on the Civil Code until its two sections are adopted. But, I would stress, everything depends on the way in which the Duma committees treat the work they have inherited from the old Duma. I believe that the very fact that a third of the deputies in the previous Duma were reelected and that many are members of the same committees is a positive thing — the principle of continuity is being maintained, and this means that it will be easier to debate all acts of legislation.

[Batygin] Featuring among the principal constitutional laws there is obviously the law on [apparent line drop] of administration, to be followed by a series of 12 more laws — without them the fundamental law "does not work." Federation components are now actively shaping their own legislation. Sometimes it is placed above federal legislation, particularly in the republics. How does the Duma plan to normalize this situation?

[Seleznev] You have touched on probably one of the most complex problems. The new Constitution effectively stops federal power at oblast level — everything that goes below that level is the concern of organs of local self-government. We are now very often encountering a situation where not only Federation components but even local self-government components are starting to draw up their own charters and statutes, to define the nature of elective organs, and so forth, often in contravention of federal laws. There have already been appeals to the Constitutional Court in this regard.

Each Federation component is entitled to be a source of lawmaking. For us the main thing is to ensure that the grass-roots component at, say, rural rayon, settlement, or small town level can clearly define its functions — what share of the federal budget it is entitled to expect, to what extent it will have to pay into the local budget, what they can keep for themselves out of local taxes, whether they are entitled to bring in new taxes to replenish their budgets.... Loads of priority issues arise, and we are continually coming across them. So the task of Duma committees and of the Federation Council is to produce the raft of laws needed to develop the new statutes relating to local self-government.

[Batygin] There have also been attempts to build a separate society in a separate region....

[Seleznev] Yes, there are problems in this area, too. Agreements are currently being concluded between the federal authorities, the federal government, and Federation components. Some people are taking the agreement concluded by Russia with Tatarstan as their model, some are pushing the agreement further. The most important thing is that administration heads and representatives of

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legislative assemblies should remember that any agreement can be in place, but there cannot be an agreement which calls into question the federal makeup of Russia itself. When talking about the economic, political, and international sovereignty of various Federation components, the main thing is not to damage the Federation as a whole.

After we adopted the law on the free economic zone in Kaliningrad Oblast, very many Federation components reckoned that such zones should emerge in their areas as well. As a rule, we are talking about border oblasts. This is a very individual matter. I have been to China and seen the care with which the concept of each free economic zone was developed there. We must not adopt a common law for all at one fell swoop.

[Batygin] At one of your first press conferences you referred to 15 amendments to the Russian Federation Constitution as the minimum required to be adopted. Adopting just one of them will require 300 votes. Are you reckoning on that level of agreement from parliamentarians? Will there not be something akin to a deadlock situation?

[Seleznev] We have submitted constitutional amendments as part of the Duma's right to monitor government activity, to take part in the appointment of the vice premiers and power ministers — that is, to keep the government under the control of the legislative organ. None of this is in the Constitution. The Duma has voted for this amendment. The Federation Council has not yet passed it. Under the existing Constitution — and I have already seen this for myself — it is essentially not possible to get every constitutional amendment through. It is not easy to win a two-thirds vote in the Duma, even though we can count on unanimity from the deputies. For instance, take the amendment to Article 43 of the Constitution, which guarantees **incomplete** secondary education. All deputies agree that the Constitution should guarantee **full** secondary education, and by the state to boot. I think that such an amendment would pass — everyone would support it. We have now settled this issue temporarily — first by presidential edict, then by the law on education. But this amendment is still needed — for the purity of our Constitution.

[Batygin] How do you plan to solve the problem of financing the Duma? After all, it is not a corporate body and does not have its own account. Financing comes from the Russian Federation president's Administration of Affairs, and in special circumstances the "faucet" could be turned off....

[Seleznev] In January deputies were late in receiving their salaries. Some even rushed to make a political statement — claiming that it had happened because the president does not like this Duma.... But the reason was simple — there was no money. But questions will nonetheless arise for as long as we are dependent on the Administration of Affairs. I have already raised on a preliminary basis the question of corporate status for the State Duma. We are not demanding to be given garages, official homes, and dachas — that is not what we are talking about. We need to become a corporate body, and at the very least to open our own accounts so as to ensure that the Finance Ministry can transfer budget funds direct to the Duma. Then we will be able to pay salaries and make travel arrangements through our own accountants' office.

Society Is Main Arbiter

[Batygin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich! You have now risen out of the "common run" into the group of top state officials. You will be meeting with the president (the first such meeting was held after our conversation — A.V.) and the prime minister. You have an opportunity to inform the country's leaders not only about the Duma's problems but also about the opposition's views.

One other point. Whether you like it or not, you are being compared with former Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. He was often called a "traffic controller." What is your concept of the speaker's role — how do you plan to do your new job?

[Seleznev] Let me answer the first half of the question — regarding my relationship with the president and the premier — first. I believe that the Duma chairman should in no way, shape, or form be a traffic controller. Apart from the fact that the speaker is obliged to organize a normal lawmaking process in the Duma itself, he is also a key political figure in the state and, apart from chairing Duma sessions, handles loads of other issues relating to the establishment of relations with all branches of power. So I would like my meetings with state leaders to be more or less systematic, so as to ensure that we can coordinate the legislative base itself. After all, the president and the premier submit many laws to the State Duma. At top level it is possible, first, to discuss the order of priorities and the coordination of action and legislative initiative in all the components of the lawmaking process. Second, top officials will be interested to know how the State Duma views certain decisions or actions by the president and premier, since most often we learn of this only from the TV. Moreover, if they are interested in knowing my opinion as one of the leaders of the opposition — this does not affect my duties as chairman — then I am open and ready to tell them what the opposition thinks about each issue of concern to the president.

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[Batygin] I have heard that you have already begun to get things organized, to combat privileges, and to select cars....

[Seleznev] Let me make things clear. We are talking about cutting the personal cars of **apparatus staffers.** Workers at department chief and chairman's aide level used to have a car available on a two-shift basis. Whereas deputies have to order cars "from the pool" and sometimes have to wait for 40-50 minutes. So we simply restored a basic bit of fair play — if a senior apparatus official needs to go somewhere, he can order a car but is not in a privileged position.

[Batygin] Here is a rather philosophical question: What is the main arbiter for you in your new appointment — your official duties, the opinion of the president and the Communist Party, the public interest, or your conscience?

[Seleznev] I would nonetheless put the public first. Unfortunately, the tragedy is that, as a result of some of our own predilections and convictions, we do not always put the interests of society and people at the top of the list. After all, the Constitution made this the number one priority. So everyone should be subordinate to it, including both presidential and government structures. A whole section of the fundamental law is devoted to citizens. How can we operate if the miners, teachers, or forestry workers promise to go on nationwide strike? It is an abnormal situation when both the president, the government, and the Duma turn into a "fire-fighting service" going out on call when yet another flash point of social tension needs to be dealt with. If we all put people from any social group at the top of the list, then there would probably be fewer of these misunderstandings.

[Batygin] There are now four colors in the Duma's political palette. The relations between the factions are by no means plain sailing — that was clearly visible in the election of the chairman, his deputies, and the committee leaders. Could you briefly tell us how you are building your relationship with faction leaders, including the Communist Party?

You have not "frozen" your membership of Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] and, naturally, another question arises — party discipline. After all, you will often have to choose which is the more important, won't you?

[Seleznev] The law does not forbid me to remain within the party of which I am a member. As you know, the law forbids the president, Constitutional Court justices, and officers in the Army and the security services to be members of parties. The matter remains open for the Duma chairman. It is a matter for my conscience and my personal convictions as to how I proceed. I have made my decision, and it was not dictated by the will of the party plenum or presidium. The fact that at the next plenum — and I think my colleagues will understand me — I will have to surrender my powers as CPRF Central Committee secretary is another matter. The decision has already been made that I will also relinquish the powers of chief editor of the PRAVDA ROSSII newspaper as well.

I think that relations with factions are normal. Even before the Duma began work we held a lot of consultations and after the elections we got to know each other better and learned to listen to different views — from left and right — subordinating them all to one purpose. First, to prevent any impediment on the Duma's activities, second, to ensure that our voters, whose money pays our salaries, cannot accuse us of having gotten bogged down in our own squabbles and not having done any concrete work....

The role of compromise is very important in lawmaking, as is a conception of why certain concessions and certain decisions are made. We need to find common ground.

What Kind of State Are We Building?

[Batygin] Gennadiy Nikolayevich! The machinery for the presidential elections is already up and running. Boris Yeltsin will announce his decision 15 February, but the CPRF is in no rush to nominate its candidate. Why is that?

[Seleznev] Indeed it isn't in a hurry, although everyone realizes that there are 500,000 members of the party, but it has to nominate its own leader. And we are in no hurry because we want to create a wide range of left-wing patriotic organizations which would enter the elections with an agreed single candidate. Then we will have a chance of winning even on the first round. If we take small steps now and, for various tactical motives, nominate five or 10 people close to our own views, and then collect signatures and start taking soundings of public opinion to see which of the candidates would win the biggest vote, then we run the risk of losing our electorate. All the main consultations will be done at the party conference in February.

[Batygin] Are there any grounds, in your view, for talking about a split in the communist movement? That frenzied Viktor Anpilov is planning to run for president....

[Seleznev] We need to distinguish between Anpilov the leader of "Working Russia" and Anpilov the leader of the Russian Communist Workers Party [RCWP]. The

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RCWP has made its decision, which has been coordinated with the CPRF — we will be nominating a single candidate for the election. "Working Russia" made a different decision — it is planning to nominate Anpilov for president. Viktor Ivanovich needs to determine whether he will follow the interests of the "Working Russia" movement or whether he will submit to the decision reached by his party.

[Batygin] Please answer a broader question. How in your opinion will Russian society develop? After all, our country did not expire in August '91 or December '95, and its way will not be blocked after June '96 either. It is important for people to know what they can expect in the future — in the more distant future. At a meeting with U.S. special envoy James Collins you said, in particular: "We have no interest in infringing Western investors' rights. We want to create an integrated economic legislative base which would protect the interests of both Western businessmen and Russian entrepreneurs, who are currently operating under conditions of institutionalized lawlessness." People have stopped being surprised by anything these days. Was what you told Collins serious and for the long haul?

[Seleznev] In implementing any reforms we want to ensure that every citizen knows what their aim is. If Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin were to respond intelligibly to this question, deputies would probably not have been continually wanting to get rid of the Cabinet of Ministers. Reform has turned into a kind of mantra. We tell everyone that the reforms are not slowing down, they are continuing. But I meet with voters, and teachers ask me: "What kind of reforms lead to people's lives getting worse and worse with every passing day?..." If we want to go further with reform, we need to produce a clear program which would distinctly state why we are implementing reform.

Today we are all measuring ourselves against the standards of the world market, forgetting that the domestic and world markets in any country may differ — and all the more so in a country with such an unstable economy as ours. I would not be surprised if we were now to bury the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant purely because its tractors were uncompetitive with those imported from Japan, the United States, or Germany. But the government should have a priority fiscal policy for its own producers. You get the impression that Russia is only able to help those enterprises whose output is able to withstand world competition. We believe that joining the world market is a secondary task. Today through our own industry and our own resources we can meet the demand for Russian goods from our domestic market and the CIS markets. But to do so we need to arrange a policy of state support.

Under market conditions many of our enterprises have been placed in a situation where they have to get by as best they can. But this is not a state approach. Our priority is Russian industry. It may be uncompetitive on the world market for the time being, but it will be necessary in our market. The price of a "Zhiguli," which is thought of as a people's car, has hit 30 million rubles [R]. Why spend money like that when you can buy an Audi — albeit a secondhand model, but one able to last another five or 10 years — for R25 million?

For some reason we have gotten the hare-brained idea that we have to do everything up to world standards. Russia needs to provide for itself to begin with. The question of food security is now becoming acute. The world community may not in the future like the way in which Russia develops, and it may turn off supplies of foodstuffs. If hunger riots were to break out, it would be every man for himself.

[Batygin] There are some contradictions in what you have said. Deliberately downgraded criteria in industry will not produce any benefits either. It is no accident that today's consumers prefer a secondhand Audi to a new "Zhiguli", or a Hitachi TV to a Russian "Rubin".... And nobody is planning to starve us out — Europe has nowhere to send its food, it has a vital interest in our market.

[Seleznev] That's all true — but I simply haven't seen any "Rubins" in Moscow stores. I would buy a good-quality Russian TV. But the market has done its job, and our TV plants are at a standstill.

[Batygin] Let's get back to politics. Today we hear it chanted like a mantra at various levels that the people are tired of experiments — let the people have a quiet life at last, let them earn amounts that could not have been dreamed of five years ago. Here is a hypothetical situation — we have a Communist Duma chairman, the leader of the Federation Council is a former oblast committee and CPSU Central Committee secretary and Politburo member, and in June there could be a Communist president. Is there any certainty that, were this to happen, Russia could avoid another breakup, division of property, and painful new experiments?

[Seleznev] In both the Communist Party program and our electoral platform we did not reject the idea of a mixed economy or private ownership. Therefore to say that, if we were to win in June, we would start destroying everything that has been accomplished — that is a calumny. Were this to happen, our first step would be to submit for nationwide debate a draft new constitution, clearly indicating what kind of state we are building. It would give priority to the individual. When we meet with entrepreneurs and representatives

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of large joint-stock organizations, we tell them — what is the point in destroying your structure if it is working normally, earning a profit, and paying taxes that go to make up the budget? Who wants to do you down?

[Batygin] The CPRF's plans include the idea of abolishing the post of president and turning the State Duma into a Supreme Soviet, right?

[Seleznev] Yes — once again if the new constitution were adopted. This cannot be resolved by any orders or edicts.

[Batygin] Finally, a question about the Chechnya crisis. What can the Duma really accomplish in this area?

[Seleznev] Many statements have been adopted, but I am convinced that they will not produce any results. Parliamentarians' task today is to find common approaches toward solving this problem in conjunction with presidential and government structures. First and foremost, by strengthening the authorities which have already been created in Chechnya. The legitimate government is already organizing structures and organs for administering the national economy and the social infrastructure. The faster that conditions for normal work are created from region to region — and I am convinced that the Chechens themselves will have to rebuild their republic — the faster peace and order will be restored in Chechnya.

[Batygin] One very last question. As "three times chief editor" and a colleague, please tell me — what decisions does the Duma plan to make regarding the mass media?

[Seleznev] Our deputies are preparing a decision to create a single state newspaper in the country which will represent the interests of all the branches of power.

Russia: 'Working Russia' Leader Anpilov Interviewed

MM0702171696 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 96 pp 1-2

[Interview with Viktor Anpilov, leader of the "Working Russia" movement, by Valentina Nikiforova; place and date not given: "Viktor Anpilov: 'Socialism Will Not Win 16 June, but....'" — first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talk with Viktor Ivanovich Anpilov, leader of the "Working Russia" movement, was short and devoted to a very specific issue: his assessment of the recent congress. Nonetheless my interlocutor's dissatisfaction could be sensed clearly.

[Nikiforova] Viktor Ivanovich, "Working Russia" has a history and authority. What chief question was the congress deciding?

[Anpilov] We discussed the results of the parliamentary elections and "Working Russia's" tactics at the forthcoming presidential elections. In addition we adopted a program for the peaceful transition of power into the hands of the working people.

[Nikiforova] Its thrust?

[Anpilov] The results of the elections showed that the majority of voters not only rejects capitalism but still believes in the resurrection of socialism and is ready to do everything for it. People's faith in socialism, in the fact that the rights of the working people won in October 1917 will be restored, is becoming a material force. That force must be used to bring down the anti-people regime without a shot.

[Nikiforova] Viktor Ivanovich, have you changed your viewpoint? At one time you rejected that path, asserting that this regime would not surrender power to the people without a fight.

[Anpilov] The fact that it will not surrender power without a fight is something of which I am convinced. Preparation for the elections and participation in them give us the opportunity to persuade people of the need to use all peaceful means. We can engage more actively in organizational work: create party cells, "Working Russia" cells. The task of organizing the working class' conscious struggle is becoming easier. Ties are being set up, like-minded people are appearing. We can exchange literature and discuss ideas. The task of preparing an all-Russia political strike is becoming simpler. And, as the State Duma elections showed, if we left-wing forces failed to work on something then it was the organization of control at the polling places. We must not make that mistake at the presidential elections! In fact we must create our own parallel central electoral commission. No one can forbid us.

[Nikiforova] What other lessons did you, the movement's leader and a State Duma candidate deputy, derive from the recent elections?

[Anpilov] All society must derive lessons, all political parties and not just me. The result of our bloc, "Communists-Working Russia for the Soviet Union" was a shocking one. The 3,137,000 votes cast for us prove that the desire to restore socialism has not died. And that means that our position is the correct one. And if at the presidential elections we again march under the red banner and with the same ideas people will support us.

[Nikiforova] Please outline these ideas more clearly.

[Anpilov] They are simple and understandable to all. The restoration of Soviet power as the power of the

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working people; the unconditional abolition of the institution of the presidency with all the mayors, prefects and sub-prefects; the return of what has been plundered to the people; the state regulation of the economy.

[Nikiforova] But will you succeed in uniting all the regime's opponents around these ideas?

[Anpilov] The elections showed that there are far more people on the side of socialism than in all the antisocialist political parties taken together. We must agree on the platform on which we shall unite and struggle for it. It should be not only a communist platform. If some people believe that there will be a socialist revolution on the day of the presidential elections, they are wrong. That day, the long summer day of 16 June, could become the last day of Yeltsin's regime. And that is all. After that it will all, again, depend on the will of the masses and their resolve to go further.

[Nikiforova] Do you believe the elections will be in a single round?

[Anpilov] They should be in a single round, there cannot be a second round. We must set ourselves the aim of winning in the first round. We have a chance, we must bring together all popular-patriotic forces and strike a single blow against the authorities.

[Nikiforova] At the "Working Russia" congress you stated that all the left-wing popular-patriotic forces should nominate a single candidate and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] has the right to nominate him. Although the day before the Russian Communist Workers' Party [RCWP] insisted on your nomination.

[Anpilov] We must consider the real disposition of forces. Over 15 million people voted for the CPRF. And if it managed to unite the supporters of socialism then the initiative in nominating the single candidate should go to the CPRF. The others must support that nomination. And if it is Zyuganov we must all support him. You disagree with him over something? Then let us argue. But that is secondary right now. The most important thing today is to rid ourselves of the ruling regime which has left millions of people without a piece of bread. People are, after all, crying out: "Find a common language! Unite at least for the elections!" And although I have had problems inside my one RCWP I have made my choice and withdrawn my candidacy. And to those who do not accept Zyuganov I say: What should we do now, unite with Yeltsin against Zyuganov? MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has been urging this and has turned Yeltsin and Zyuganov into a single person. Well, shall we go along with it and believe that MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS is indeed the "mouthpiece of communist propaganda?"

[Nikiforova] Was the argument and the disagreement solely over the nomination or was the argument about a principled position?

[Anpilov] At the congress there were attempts to begin to sort out differences on seemingly conceptual issues. But I said that this is the path to deadlock or even worse into a labyrinth. It is a pity that this situation has not acquired a principled nature. My comrades, people who are dear to me, my most consistent champions, have suddenly accused me of betraying Lenin. Tyulkin rebuked me for deliberately putting the Soviets above the party in my election campaign. But what is higher for Communists: the party or the power of the working people in the form of the Soviets? In my opinion if I am a Leninist I must admit that the Soviets, the participation of millions of people in the management of the state, are far more important than party interests — whatever party it may be.

[Nikiforova] You ran for the State Duma for the Balikovskiy District and did not collect enough votes. What happened?

[Anpilov] There were several reasons. In this district the CPRF nominated Aleksandr Ivanovich Maksakov and he won. But we should not be in a hurry to explain my nonelection by the fact that he barred my path. There was a three-way competition there — there was also a Liberal Democratic Party candidate in the district. Zhirinovskiy himself came there.

[Nikiforova] Have you met with him?

[Anpilov] Why should I meet with him? He was there and that was enough. They opened a cheap store for veterans and filmed commercials.

[Nikiforova] And the veterans were bought?

[Anpilov] No — the young people were tempted. Zhirinovskiy promised young people a career, money, and glory in exchange for no more than putting their crosses in the right place. Do you sense how subtly bourgeois morality is being implanted? Obedience is rewarded.

[Nikiforova] Was that enough on its own, even in a provincial city where morals have still not been completely spoiled?

[Anpilov] No. He has the ability to use every means to exalt himself. Even I envied him. At a meeting of our supporters the secretary of the RCWP oblast committee tried to overcome his opponent's agent: "How come your Zhirinovskiy flew in on his own aircraft." But the

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latter replied: "Zhirinovskiy is the leader of the leading faction in the parliament of a great country. Do you want him to travel by sleigh?" The young people liked that. It does not matter that later all his promises remained unfulfilled. But it was a lesson to us: They do not use progress to rebuke people, they make use of it.

[Nikiforova] Nonetheless you could have calculated the cost of the trip and asked where the money came from. But the CPRF did not have an aircraft yet its candidate won.

[Anpilov] It was no accident that he won. The CPRF there has a very strong, ramified structure. But the fact that 40,000 people who did not know me personally voted for me is also an achievement. I lost the elections but I won myself.

[Nikiforova] Is someone in "Working Russia" studying the movement's social composition?

[Anpilov] We recently created a scientific council under the executive committee and it has been joined by sociologists and historians. The council will give recommendations to the movement's leadership and to me personally. I cannot keep track of everything.

[Nikiforova] Who belongs to "Working Russia" nowadays?

[Anpilov] Mainly the Soviets of workers, the Congress of Soviet Women, the Committee of Red Veterans, the "Women of Siberia" association, and some youth organizations. Our membership is not fixed — those who advocate socialism under a red banner join. The RCWP is the nucleus of the movement.

[Nikiforova] You said that the movement includes the Soviets of workers. But the miners arrived at the government house, knocked on the door with their helmets, and then went away in the hope they would be given something. How did the rest react? Why was workers' solidarity totally absent here?

[Anpilov] I have talked with the miners. I asked: "Why have you not establish contact with us, we would have brought in about 10,000 people both young and old — the picture would have been different, they would have listened to you!" They agreed, yes, that is what we should have done. Then I said: "Comrade miners! You agree that television shows you knocking on the door with your helmets and it comments on it. And Chernomyrdin replies, explaining why your wages are not being paid. But why do they not let you speak so that you can explain yourselves what you think about it? If you were allowed to speak on television the success of your action would be more considerable. Do you agree?" "We agree!" But I can see that the trade unions' leaders immediately run to the police saying: "Anpilov is agitating to appear on 'Ostankino.' You realize what this is about? The miners are being given the run-around. Perhaps their wages are being held back specially in order later to turn them not against the regime but against the Communists. Again "...they have reduced us to this state."

Unity is necessary but it will be generated from below, in the mines, where every man can be seen. That is where all the Communists should go. They should go to Chechnya to halt the bloodshed at least before the presidential elections.

[Nikiforova] You have a scenario?

[Anpilov] I have long been saying: "Let's create a popular parliamentary delegation. Nemtsov collected a million signatures in two weeks. But what about us — can we not collect signatures? Let us stop the carnage! Let us demand that the man who unleashed civil war on his country's territory be brought to book! His name is known. We must demand his immediate resignation. The government can do its work for the time being, why change it now? How is Kadannikov better than Chubays? They are as bad as each other. He has done nothing for the Volga Truck Plant, but as a member of the interregional deputies' group he destroyed the Soviet Union. He was an accomplice of Gorbachev's. MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI was printed at his printing house. Yet our MOLNIYA was published surreptitiously at the same printing house. The workers hid the newspaper when Kadannikov ordered printing to be halted.

[Nikiforova] When was that?

[Anpilov] In December 1990.

[Nikiforova] Your actions in the immediate future?

[Anpilov] The congress has instructed me to make every effort and on behalf of "Working Russia" to organize the nomination of a single candidate and to hold talks. That does not mean that we are taking away the right to talks from any party, including our won RCWP.

[Nikiforova] What are "Working Russia's" relations with the CPRF like?

[Anpilov] If the comrades make criticism of another party — the CPRF — the guiding motif of their party's activity then they must realize that this cannot bring success. You do not gain popularity and recognition among the working people that way. They can be earned only through a clear-cut program, through an understanding that today we have no time for arrogance. Either we unite for the sake of the country, the people,

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the October Revolution, for the sake of all the lives which departed from us in the Great Patriotic War or shall we allow our country to be turned into a colony? To leave it in Yeltsin's hands for another four years is a crime.

[Nikiforova] What do you want from PRAVDA now?

[Anpilov] A comradely attitude. Give the politicians the opportunity to express themselves.

[Nikiforova] How do you view the creation of a single center for the distribution of the party press?

[Anpilov] I have great experience in distributing the small-scale press.

[Nikiforova] All press is large-scale.

[Anpilov] You must find three hours or so to sit down and read Lenin's book "What Is To Be Done?" And to understand that the Communists need a single organ. I suggest that PRAVDA unite with Anpilov. And let us prepare for 9 May a festival of the communist press — that is the first thing. Let us invite all our friends, foreign guests, actors, and musicians — that is the second thing.

[Nikiforova] Such a festival would be a help before the elections.

[Anpilov] And it would attract young people — that is the third point. Then today's Communists would look more cheerful. But the fundamental solution of the question is one central communist newspaper. Let us make PRAVDA a single communist newspaper!

Military Issues

Russia: Commander Views Air Defense Forces' Status

MM0602150196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Feb 96 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Colonel General of Aviation Viktor Prudnikov, commander in chief of Air Defense Forces, by Aleksandr Ivanov; place and date not given: "Integration of the Commonwealth Countries' Air Defense Is the Commandment of the Times" — first two paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The change in Russia's geopolitical position, the difficult situation in the Armed Forces due to the shortage of absolutely everything, and other problems are making the military seek new, sometimes unorthodox ways of tackling defense tasks and improving combat readiness.

Our conversation with Colonel General of Aviation Viktor Prudnikov, commander in chief of Air Defense Forces, is about the difficult conditions in which the forces are currently having to protect Russia's air frontiers and interact with different structures, including those in the Commonwealth countries' Armies.

[Ivanov] Comrade commander in chief, the cold war has now ended, as we know. We are in a different era. Is it necessary, as in past years, to keep a substantial air defense force in permanent readiness to repulse an attack by an airborne enemy?

[Prudnikov] A different era indeed. We no longer have the old bitter military confrontation. The Air Defense Forces are aware of the reduction in the number of reconnaissance flights along our borders. Groupings of forces capable of operating in the area and formerly seen as a likely enemy have also become less active and have been reduced in numbers.

But there is the threat of unforeseen circumstances connected with a violation of the state border and of the rules of the use of air space by foreign aircraft. Last year, on dozens of occasions, patrols had to force down aircraft violating them....

[Ivanov] ...Therefore, I take it that there has been no reduction in the tension involved in combat patrols. In these conditions, given the sharp reduction in supplies of new equipment, how is it possible to perform the tasks?

[Prudnikov] Alas, the Air Defense Forces, like the rest of the Armed Forces, are not having the best of times at the moment. In summing up the combat training last year, we reported that inadequate funding and downright bad material and technical support for the forces are leading to a lower standard of combat readiness. There are practically no systematic, daily combat training sessions, exercises, or firing practice on ranges. We are dependent on what we have done before. But this cannot last for long.

Take aircraft, for example. A pilot has to know his combat aircraft inside out. So he has to fly. But it is impossible to provide the flying time required, therefore airmen are increasingly losing their piloting skills.

Aircraft preparedness is also suffering. Because of lack of funding, repair enterprises are not taking in fighters for repairs and there are no spares and components. Every month more and more aircraft are unable to take to the air.

Because resources are still capped, the radiotechnical forces have been compelled to withdraw a large part of their equipment from combat service. They have left just the essential equipment for the borders, and not all of them at that. Already around 40-50 percent of Russian territory, particularly the remote interior, is not covered

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by our facilities. The result us that last year saw nearly a 100-percent increase in the number of breaches of the rules of use of air space and unauthorized crossings of the Russian Federation border. Above all, unfortunately, by our civilian aircraft. Not long ago, for example, a Tu-154 had to be threatened with force to make it land in Yekaterinburg.

In short, the Army must regularly engage in combat training, and if it does not do so professionalism will be dead. It is difficult to talk about this, but talk we must, because the country's sovereignty and security and the inviolability of its borders depend on it.

[Ivanov] But when you visit the forces you see that some progress is being made. People are serving, training, mastering equipment. Or am I mistaken?

[Prudnikov] We are finding ways, of course. New forms and methods of maintaining combat readiness are being tested in the forces. For example, we are studying the question of the extent to which it is possible to reduce human involvement in the performance of tasks, by making equipment do as much of the work as possible. Moreover, we are currently forming teams made up exclusively of the best specialists. Commissioned and noncommissioned officers are accomplishing the tasks, although it is very difficult.

[Ivanov] Viktor Alekseyevich, it is a year since the Commonwealth countries' combined air defense system was set up. Experts claimed that it would be extremely difficult to revive it. That is would take years....

[Prudnikov] The problems I talked about earlier are typical of the Commonwealth countries' Armies as well. At the January meeting of CIS heads of state in Moscow I reported that the combined air defense system had been set up and had started performing its tasks at the end of last year. This was made possible by the elaboration of the draft blueprint for the protection of our air frontiers, which provides for the future development of the combined air defense system. It sets out the main directions, principles, and military technical questions of its improvement and of the training of forces.

The first stage of the blueprint specifies an integral air space for the participating states, better monitoring of air space in the Baltic, Black Sea, and Caspian sectors, the creation of Georgian, Kyrgyzstani, and Tajikistani Air Defense Forces, and improvement of the forces in Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

[Ivanov] I gather from what you say that about a year has been spent entirely on preparing the theoretical basis of the combined air defense system. But you cannot get very far on theory alone, so to speak....

[Prudnikov] The theory ended when we restored the information exchange system and in October last year we held training sessions during which real performance-grading intercept targets were sent up in the air space of all the CIS states. The air defense facilities accomplished their tasks, and I reported this to the heads of states via the defense ministers.

Documents are currently being prepared on financing procedures, tax concessions, customs questions, problems connected with industry, and so on. So we have already switched from theory to practice. We are currently building up facilities for joint exercises, training of cadres, and provision of armaments and equipment.

[Ivanov] As for the latter, it is no doubt not as straightforward as it may seem. Indeed, when Russian subunits transferred equipment and armaments to the newly formed states after the breakup of the USSR, the latter did not know immediately what to do with these goods. Much was abandoned and fell into disuse. Now they do not have the money to buy new stuff. So does Russia have to give its neighbors radar and antiaircraft missile systems?

[Prudnikov] We do not intend to dole out any gifts to anyone. A plan will be worked out for rendering assistance on a barter basis. In order to revive the air defense system states will calculate what they can afford and place orders. There will not only be financial settlements, but exchange of technologies and joint revival of industry, which will be spelled out in additional intergovernmental agreements.

[Ivanov] This is a constructive approach. But will our defense industry be able to keep up? After all, the shutdown of many military-industrial complex plants has aggravated the problem of military orders. We are even unable to keep our own antiaircraft missile systems up to date, are we not?

[Prudnikov] It is a very complex problem. In fact, the Air Defense Forces have been unable to pay for orders for two years now. We get the occasional piece of new equipment, which is clearly not enough. And the old equipment is getting worn out. To avoid being left with nothing, I was forced to make a decision: To mothball the equipment that was near the end of its life and use it only when the situation demanded. But the point is that the plan to reestablish the combined air defense system presupposes its financing by all Commonwealth states. So I think the problem will be resolved.

[Ivanov] Fine, but no one else is going to put our own house in order for us. How do you make it so that there are fewer hooligans flying in Russian air space?

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[Prudnikov] The state must first of all have clear-cut laws. We have not even adopted a code on air space. Yet this is what determines the procedure, rules, and liability for violations in the air. We are forcing down violators and utilizing a great deal of manpower to do so, but to no avail. Not to mention material compensation for the Air Defense Forces for work on violators. In short, the procedure must be based on strong legislation.

[Ivanov] Recently there has been talk of general forces districts taking over Air Defense Forces units and formations. Something similar happened 15 years ago and proved to be unsound. The current trend, what is it, a return to the past or something else?

[Prudnikov] Operational command will give commanders of forces in general forces districts joint responsibility for the state of affairs in the air space on the district's territory. And the commanders of our formations will be deputy commanders of district forces for air defense. That is, we are improving the command and control system along territorial lines.

The current air defense command and control system remains in place and no one is encroaching on it. Moreover, operational and full command must not be confused, as was the case in the early eighties, a situation that resulted in a disorganized air defense system. And anyway, the principles of the creation of a territorial air defense system should have been enshrined in laws a long time ago. What does this mean? All things that are capable of performing tasks in the interests of air defense should operate as a single unit.

[Ivanov] Now the final question, which I have to ask in connection with the events in Chechnya. Certain media and also some state departments are claiming that the war there has gone on so long because the Dudayevites are getting essential supplies for the gunmen airlifted in from abroad. Is that so?

[Prudnikov] No, it is not. Since the Chechen events began there has not been a single instance where the Air Defense Forces have let through an aircraft without its having authorization to pass. No department has thus far been able to supply us with information on instances of violation of air frontiers. But to rule out even accidental cases, we have strengthened the protection of air space on the border with Chechnya and are safely performing our task.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Federation Council Begins Work

LD0702214096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1909 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Two first meetings of the Federation Council have shown that the new composition of the upper house of the Russian Parliament is "inclined to work on a constructive basis," Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev told a news conference on Wednesday.

He said that the discussion of the first laws already showed the aspiration of lawmakers for the constructive work with the president of the Russian Federation and the State Duma, and the goal-oriented search for the ways of cooperation.

Such a situation was observed when deputies were considering several laws vetoed by the president. Members of the Federation Council tried not to come into conflict but find a "real, not imaginary, solution to the task in the interests of society," as well as during the discussion of the subsistence wages or the state guarantees to residents of the North of the country.

The speaker believes that the country needs fundamental lawmaking work but not the adoption of separate juridical acts, sometimes being populist.

It is necessary to determine top-priority tasks: what laws should be adopted in the first place and what — in the second turn.

First of all, deputies are due to elaborate a concept of economic security of Russia. Stroyev informed that he had agreed with the State Duma and the government to hold a discussion for coordination of efforts for these problems, and then take up working out laws.

The governor of the Orel region is sure that the interests of regions in the lawmaking work must be taken into account by all means, however, "not in a blind and one-sided manner, but taking into consideration the general situation in the country."

Russia: Federation Council Revisits Vetoed Laws

MM0802124096 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Anna Kozyreva: "The Legacy the Federation Council Is Renouncing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the agenda for yesterday's Federation Council sitting was the discussion of a

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number of federal laws which were approved by the old Federation Council. They were "vetoed," however, by the president. In accordance with the Constitution, they were sent back to the senators for further consideration.

They include the law "On a Living Wage in the Russian Federation." Perhaps no other legislative act has been discussed at such length and with such passion. Indeed, minimum pay is currently much lower than the subsistence level. What the law aims to do is to achieve this level through a special benefit.

According to experts, the law will cost between 36 and 60 trillion rubles and it will be funded by regional budgets. But only 14 out of 89 Russian Federation components will realistically be able to pay the benefits stipulated in the law. The rest do not have the money.

A similar fate lay in store for the law "On Amendments and Additions to the Russian Federation Law 'On State Guarantees and Compensation for People Working and Living in the Extreme North and Equivalent Areas.'" It was noted that the law is necessary, but needs additional work.

The federal law "On the General Principles of Organizations in the System of Russian Federation Components' Organs of State Power" was not approved. The senators deemed the president's comments to be valid. Some other laws inherited from the old Federation Council were also turned down: "On the Securities Market," and "On Meetings, Rallies, Demonstrations, Marches, and Pickets."

Russia: Federation Council Fails To Override Veto

LD0702161996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council (upper house of the Russian legislature) on Wednesday failed to override President Boris Yeltsin's veto on the bill On Securities Market.

However, the members of the upper house admitted that the draft, which would for the first time regulate issues associated with emission and circulation of secutities, as well as activities of the professional participants at the securities market, is necessary and therefore should be finally signed into a law.

The history of the law dates back to 1994, when the State Duma passed it under the first reading. Its first version was declined by the Federation Council, amended and then approved by both parliamentary houses. However, the Russian President did not sign it.

According to Konstantin Titov, the Chairman of the newly set-up Budget Committee of the Federation Council, president's remarks mainly concerned the changing of the federal commission for securities status and freeing the circulation of state securities from law-binding rules as the law contradicts the Civil Code.

About ten amendments must be worked out together with the State Duma and introduced in the law, the committee believes. With this aim in view, it proposed setting up the Conciliatory commission, so that experts from both houses of the parliament could closely examine all the disputable provisions of the law. The Federation Council supported the motion.

Russia: Council Committee Appeals to Yeltsin on Chechnya

LD0702174496 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Feb 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation in Chechnya was discussed today in the Federation Council.

[Correspondent T. Aldoshina] The Security and Defense Committee of the upper chamber of parliament has drafted an appeal to the president in connection with the situation in the Chechen Republic. It is not yet clear whether or not this appeal will mark a new departure with regard to the conflict: no one in the Federation Council has received the text of the appeal yet. However, judging from what Aleksandr Ryabov, Security and Defense Committee chairman, has to say, the committee discussed the Chechen problem in a very calm atmosphere yesterday and concluded that the actions of all the agencies of the federal authorities in Chechnya should be well coordinated.

[Begin Ryabov recording] The gist of our appeal is that the work of all the branches of authority is uncoordinated to such an extent that, as we heard yesterday at our meeting, individual deputies are travelling there and trying to assess the situation without any clear authority to do so. [end recording]

[Aldoshina] The Security and Defense Committee intends to ask the president to set up a commission combining representatives of the presidential team, the government, and the Federal Assembly.

[Begin Ryabov recording] The gist of the appeal is that all the branches of authority should set up a single commission to work out joint approaches and policy to settle this complex issue. Otherwise we will not

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find a way out. [end recording] [video shows chamber, interview in lobby]

Russia: Army, MVD Nonpayments Reach 'Astronomical' Sum

MM0702125596 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Federation Council Looks Into Problem of Nonpayments to Power Structures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of the government's fulfillment of budget agreements was on the agenda for the routine Federation Council session which began 6 February. The total sum of nonpayments countrywide has reached the astronomical sum of 300 trillion rubles. The most disastrous situation, it was noted by the regional leaders who spoke during the discussion of the agenda, has arisen with the funding of the Army and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] organs. In some oblasts of Russia the monthly level of payment of these people's pay is 18-20 percent, and sometimes they do not get paid at all for four months at a time. And there is an unfortunate record: In the Chechen Republic military pensioners have not received their money for two years now.

The problem of nonpayments is so serious that the senators even rejected a proposal to prepare for and conduct a special session of the Federation Council, inviting Viktor Chernomyrdin. It would have taken several days to prepare for and hold it, and time is precious, so it was decided to hear a government report 7 February. It is possible that Oleg Soskovets will deliver it. It is not ruled out that on the basis of the results of the hearing the senators will raise the question of the Comptroller's Office conducting an extra audit.

Russia: State Duma Raises Minimum Wage

LD0702214396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — The Russian State Duma passed a law Wednesday raising the minimum wage from the current 63,250 rubles to 75,900 rubles from February 1.

A total of 255 deputies voted for the measure, with 226 votes required to pass a law.

The deputies rejected the proposal of the bill's author, Labor and Social Security Committee Chairman Sergei Kalashnikov, to raise the wage in two stages, on March 1 and on April 1. The Russian government insists on similar terms.

The wage increase will require the provision of an additional sum of about 400 billion rubles from budgets of all levels, including 300 billion rubles from the regional and autonomous budgets.

Mikhail Zadornov, head of the Budgetary Committee, said during the discussion of the bill that the deputies "are approving a measure which is not supported by anything."

Along with the wage increase, benefits to families with children, students' stipends and lunch benefits as well as other social payments will also rise.

The law has been sent to the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, for approval.

Russia: Committee Backs Duma Chief of Staff Nominee

MK0702125596 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 3

[Unattributed INTERFAX report: "The Duma Chief of Staff Will Be 'Seleznev's Man'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma Procedure and Organization Committee has approved Nikolay Troshkin as house chief of staff. His candidacy is expected to be considered tomorrow at a Duma Council session and on Friday [9 February] at its plenary meeting. According to Yekaterina Lakhova, member of the Procedure and Organization Committee, Troshkin had worked as chief of the Fourth Directorate of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry and in the past few year was chairman of the All-Russia Foundation To Promote Law and Order. Lakhova stressed that she had voted against Troshkin primarily because he had been recommended by Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] faction leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, and Former USSR Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov, who is the leader of the Popular Rule deputies' group. "I believe that the Duma chief of staff should be outside politics and must not directly or indirectly be affiliated with any political grouping," Lakhova thinks.

Russia: Law Enforcer Tipped for Duma Staff Job

MM0802094396 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Olga Gerasimenko: "New Boss for Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a few days the State Duma will have a new chief of staff. According to standing orders the candidate for this key post (he has around 1,000 apparatchiks under him) is appointed by the speaker personally with the Duma Council's agreement.

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In Ivan Rybkin's time the apparatus was led by "president's man" Andrey Voykov. Apart from his tremendous height and sonorous bass voice he was also renowned as a top-notch professional lawyer. His name appeared in the press after the election results were announced — Andrey Ivanovich did not mince his words at the time, saying that he would hardly be able to work well with certain orthodox Communists. His frankness cost Voykov his post.

Today the Duma Council will consider the candidacy for his successor. The names of A. Vengerovskiy (Liberal Democratic Party of Russia) and former deputy V. Bauer, former head of the Committee for Organizing the Work of the State Duma, have been cited behind the scenes. However, the most likely candidate, backed by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction, is Nikolay Nikitich Troshkin, the 44-year old president of the Foundation for Strengthening Law and Order. Curiously, he began his working life in the job of foreman at a Chelyabinsk educational-labor colony. He spent a long time working in Ministry of Internal Affairs structures and was even awarded a medal "For Excellent Service in Safeguarding Public Order."

Russia: Zyuganov: Duma Must Focus on Agriculture, Crime

LD0702130496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, February 7 (ITAR-TASS) — The laws, which the Russian State Duma should consider top-priority tasks, must concern the development of power engineering, transport, agriculture, as well as be aimed at the strengthening of the social protection of the population and the fight against crime in the country.

This was stated today by Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the largest Duma faction — the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, during a discussion in the lower house of Russian parliament of the priorities in the lawmaking activities of the State Duma.

According to him, the parliament should legally approve a doctrine of the country's development. Besides, it must also adopt a programme for the production development and the enhancement of the people's well-being for the next 25 years.

"Our moral right is to adopt a law which will annul the CIS founding agreement on the breakup of the Soviet Union," Gennadiy Zyuganov stressed.

This does not mean that "tomorrow somebody will join someone by force," he explained. The communists intend to do everything in their power to reintegrate former union republics as soon as possible, and propose to do this first of all to Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, he said.

Deputies must immediately resume discussions of the Laws "On the Fight against Corruption" and "On the Struggle against Organised Crime." The activities of the "power" ministries must be reliably backed by corresponding laws, the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation stressed.

Communists will back all that "has been privatised and is operating normally," Zyuganov noted.

Meanwhile, not deputies, but competent bodies, should deal with what was privatised and now is being stolen," the leader of the Duma communist faction pointed out.

According to him, the Duma should also adopt laws on the Security Council, the government, on the mechanism of handing over power, on Russian president and his administration.

Touching on the Chechen problem, Zyuganov emphasised that there was no military solution to the conflict. In this connection, communists speak for the establishment of a commission which would represent all the branches of power and "control the process of appeasement" in Chechnya.

At the same time, "power" structures of Russia must take more rigid measures as regards the illegal armed formations after giving them the possibility to lay down their weapons voluntarily, Zyuganov accentuated.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Sverdlovsk Governor Requests Revenue From Arms Sales

MM0802114296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Vladykin: "Time To Return Debts...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yekaterinburg — Governor E. Rossel has sent a letter addressed to Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin requesting that $100 million from India's payment of its debts to the Central Urals be specially earmarked for the Sverdlovsk Oblast Government.

In accordance with intergovernment agreements in the period 1980 through 1991 the Urals car building plant made deliveries of military equipment to India. India has now begun to repay the debt to Russia. But the distribution of the currency receipts is being made by

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bureaucrats without considering the contribution of the regions and enterprises which earned them.

Russia: Transdniester Army Hardware Withdrawal Suspended

LD0702215396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — The withdrawal of Russian army hardware from Transdnestr has been suspended, Moldovan Deputy Defense Minister Ion Nani told INTERFAX Wednesday.

The suspension was caused by the lack of coordination on the conditions of and mechanism for the transfer of some of the equipment to Moldova, he said.

Prior to this, the commander of Russian troops in Transdnestr, Lt. Gen. Valeriy Yevnevich, had accused Chisinau of failing to provide trains to take the hardware to Russia.

However, Nani responded that the method of transferring the hardware was Russia's problem, not that of Moldova.

The bilateral agreements did not stipulate how the equipment should be handed over to Moldova, Nani said. "However, the former Soviet Army used to have a clear transfer procedure: the side handing over the hardware delivered it where the receiving side indicated," he said. "This is why we believe that the handover of a part of the equipment to Moldova is Russia's problem," he said.

Yevnevich said in response that his units were ready to hand over the indicated part of the equipment, but Moldovan officers should come to Tiraspol to receive it. Talks on this issue are under way, he said.

Russia: Government Backs Ulyanovsk Customs-Free Zone Project

MM0802113596 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 1

[Article by Nikolay Senchev under "Russian Federation Government to the Regions: Ulyanovsk Oblast" rubric: "Not Only to Oneself but Also to One's Neighbors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government has supported the initiative of Ulyanovsk Oblast and the "Volga-Dnepr" joint-stock company (Ulyanovsk City) to create a customs-free zone on the territory adjoining Ulyanovsk-Vostochnyy Airport (Russian Federation Government Directive No. 57 of 16 January 1996). All interested ministries and departments are instructed to consider the documents on the creation of a customs-free zone and submit proposals to the government. The State Customs Committee has three months to devise and approve a program for the comprehensive use of customs regulations on the territory of the terminal complex being created.

Our Commentary

To have a customs-free zone is a dream for most Russian regions. The Russian Federation Government has received many applications from the provinces requesting such status, but it has been granted to by no means all of them. Ulyanovsk Oblast Administration was able to prove its potential to implement such a project and received government approval for its intention.

Reliance is being placed on the fact that the "Volga-Dnepr" joint-stock company, which carries out air freight shipments in giant "Ruslans," [heavy transport aircraft] has made an excellent name for itself throughout the world. It has clients in 116 countries. At the same time "Volga-Dnepr" is based in Ulyanovsk, which is where the joint-stock company came into being. The superb airport with an entire ground infrastructure is located on the left bank of the Volga beside the oblast center. Here there is also a vast area for terminal complex facilities — unloading and loading bays, storage hangars, and production shops. It is also important that Ulyanovsk is located at the intersection of main air routes. So, along with Ulyanovsk inhabitants, the neighboring oblasts and republics of the Middle Volga could enjoy the benefits of a customs- free zone.

The existence of a customs-free zone will provide an opportunity to carry out export-import operations faster and with lower material costs. Naturally, this will have the effect of reducing retail prices of consumer goods imported from abroad by a minimum of 15-20 percent. There are other advantages which will give an impetus to the intensification of the region's foreign economic activity.

The project's social side is also attractive. The terminal complex and freight transportation from Ulyanovsk to neighboring oblasts and republics will provide 15,000 additional jobs. And new opportunities for the "Volga-Dnepr" aviation company's further intensive development.

Russia: Bashkortostan President on Russian Payment Crisis

LD0702175096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — President of the Russian republic of Bashko-

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rtostan Murtaza Rakhimov says that Russia's payment crisis should not be blamed on Moscow.

In an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday, he spoke of not sharing the outspoken criticism of the Russian president and government on this question. "Regional governments must in the first place carry the responsibility for such a problem," Rakhimov said.

He said the stock companies alone faced the problem of defaults in Bashkortostan. "They are property owners, so let them solve their own problems," he said.

Rakhimov said there were no delays of wages at state-run enterprises and pensioners regularly drew their pensions. "Nor do the servicemen have any grudge against the government of Bashkortostan," he said.

Rakhimov thinks the center must focus not on the problem of defaults as such, but on a situation in which many large enterprises and agglomerates are interested in creating "the artificial problem of non-payment," as he called it. "While they are indebted to the state, their departments are building big country houses and offices," he said.

Russia: Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Will Not Run for President

LD0702124296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1057 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nizhniy Novgorod, Feb 7 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov will not participate in the 1996 presidential elections despite the collection of signatures in his support, Nemtsov's press secretary Aleksandr Kotyusov told INTERFAX-EURASIA Wednesday.

Nemtsov learned about the collection of signatures in his support Tuesday when he telephoned home from Davos, Switzerland, where he was attending an annual meeting of the world economic forum.

"I have never expressed a wish to participate in the presidential elections, and did not agree to the collection of signatures. Everything is being done without my knowledge," said Nemtsov.

Russia: Shaymiyev Only Candidate for New Tatar President

LD0802100996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KAZAN February 8 (ITAR-TASS) — Mintimer Shaymiyev, the current president of the Russian republic of Tatarstan on the Volga, became the only candidate at the March 24 presidential elections in the mostly Muslim republic thus predetermining their outcome, according to the local election commission.

It said on Thursday no other candidate has shown up for registration.

The Communist party nominated Ramil Gabdrakhmanov, the director of the local vinegar plant, for the post.

However, on Wednesday a rally of the party in Kazan decided to quit the race several minutes before the registration deadline expired.

Russia: Sobchak Confident of St. Petersburg Mayoral Victory

MK0802073196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Besik Pipiya: "Boris Yeltsin Is Against Presidential and Mayoral Elections Being Held at the Same Time. Anatoliy Sobchak Is Ready To Take the Case to the Constitutional Court"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under a decree of the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly, on 16 June this year mayoral election is to be held at the same time as presidential election. However, Sergey Tsyplyayev, the Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in St. Petersburg, has said to reporters that Boris Yeltsin himself is in principle against the presidential election being combined with any local elections or referendums.

Under a special edict, the president allowed only a Moscow mayor to be elected, as an exception. According to Tsyplyayev, heads of the executive branch in other Federation components should be elected under a different edict, whereby elections are to be completed before 31 December this year.

The powers of the head of the "northern capital," [St. Petersburg] Anatoliy Sobchak, elected five years ago in conformity with the corresponding decree by the RSFSR [Soviet Russia] Supreme Soviet Presidium of 2 May 1991 "On the Election of the Mayor of Leningrad," expire on 12 June 1996. What is to be done next? Will the city be headed by an acting mayor for several months, or will the Russian president extend Sobchak's powers, which appears rather dubious from the legal point of view?

Sobchak himself has often stated that he is against anybody's being appointed to the post or the election date being moved. Changing election day can play into the hands of his rivals, who will necessarily accuse Sobchak of authoritarianism and will thus try to ruin his rating.

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Observers are asking, "Why did Yeltsin make an exception only for Moscow?" "Why was St. Petersburg 'forgotten'?" Sobchak himself responded to these questions in the CHAS PIK newspaper as follows: "The fact is that the incumbent Moscow mayor was not elected but appointed. When Gavriil Popov resigned in 1992, Luzhkov had two options. He could either take the position of Moscow mayor as an elected deputy major, but then he were to hold an election within six months and only then claim the post of the head of Moscow City, or agree to being appointed to that position under an executive order. Yuriy Luzhkov opted for the latter. The only popularly elected mayor in the country is the chairman of the St. Petersburg [city] government. This is why St. Petersburg needs no presidential edict to hold election on 16 June. If Boris Yeltsin issues an edict forbidding the St. Petersburg mayoral election, then I will sue in the Constitutional Court," Sobchak said. "The election for the head of St. Petersburg will be held on a legitimate basis, for a second time, whereas in Moscow Luzhkov will face an election only for the first time." [passage omitted]

Opinion polls show that Sobchak has the best chances of success with a one-round setup. In this event, the votes cast for Sobchak's rivals, who are at least six, will be dispersed.

Yet, Sobchak has nothing to fear even in a two-round scenario. According to a survey conducted in St. Petersburg by the SNITs [St. Petersburg's Sociological Scientific-Research Center] company, Sobchak would win in an election held today. [passage omitted]

Russia: Chelyabinsk Communists Hold Election Post Mortem

MM0802120396 Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Belozertsev: "Signatures Collected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chelyabinsk — A few days ago the Chelyabinsk Communist Party of the Russian Federation Oblast Committee held a plenum in the city, whose participants analyzed self-critically the results of the State Duma elections in the region. Whereas Russia-wide over 22 percent of voters voted for the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, in our oblast only 14.3 percent did so, that is, one-third fewer.

The oblast's Communists have now begun collecting signatures in support of Russian presidential candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. Signatures are being collected at labor collectives, workers' hostels, apartment blocks, and even in the city center on Ploshchad Revolyutsii [Revolution Square]. For several years now there has been a public kiosk disseminating the patriotic press. Whereas previously it operated three times a week, on these winter days, despite the severe Ural frosts, it has been open every day. The people of Chelyabinsk come along with their passports and willingly provide their signatures for the Communist Party leader, who most consistently champions the interests of working people.

Russia: Krasnoyarsk Governor Welcomes 'Motley' Duma

MM0702165596 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Erich Pechorskiy on undated Krasnoyarsk interview with Krasnoyarsk Kray Governor Valeriy Zubov under the "Local Power" rubric: "Regions Must Pay Their Own Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Krasnoyarsk — Krasnoyarsk Kray occupies an area of 2.3 million square km. Only neighboring Yakutia is bigger in all Russia. And the kray has the highest population in Siberia. In terms of natural wealth the kray is almost unrivaled in the world. It has Norilsk's platinum, copper, and nickel, the coal of the Kansk-Achinsk Fuel and Energy Complex, Krasnoyarsk's aluminum, and the nuclear shield — and this is by no means a full socioeconomic "portrait" of the region, one of the most developed in the country. That is why my discussion with kray governor Valeriy Zubov, who recently became deputy chairman of the Federation Council as well, began with this very point — how is the territory's economy working in the transitional period?

Right now we are completing our analysis of last year's results, Valeriy Zubov said. But it may already be said with confidence that positive changes have been noted in most sectors of the economy. In the kray's timber sector, for example, half of our enterprises have experienced a slump in production but at the same time the other half are now beginning stable operation.

The financial situation is worse: The kray's enterprises owe the federal budget 1 trillion rubles [R]. That also accounts for the kray's budget difficulties. Especially since there are some enterprises, for example the Yenisey Chemical Combine, Sibtyazhmash, and others, which by all criteria are already bankrupt. I am going to be head of several Federation Council committees, including the budget committee. Even now I can see that my main task is going to be to establish a practice of civilized decisionmaking on investments in the economy. Otherwise we will tear Russia to pieces. Can it really be right that the number of subsidy-dependent territories is increasing in the country year by year? And you do not need the wisdom of Solomon to see that people do

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not treat "other people's" money the same way that they treat their "own." Policy must be formed in such a way that no one asks anyone for anything. Everyone must pay their own way. Things are hardest for veterans, of course.

The recently adopted Law on Veterans is a good example which confirms that at the moment the economy is unable to give the document material substance. We have already done our own calculations: According to the letter of the law it would take 25 kopeks out of every ruble of tax collected to implement it properly. But we spend only 2-3 kopeks per ruble of tax on the kray's entire cultural program. Is this realistic?

We put R50 billion into the budget this year and told the kray Veterans' Council: Decide how to spend that money yourselves. For example, you can hand it out one ruble at a time, or you can focus it on veterans' programs — the installation of telephones or the solution of other social tasks. In other words, the realities of life today are such that it is necessary to identify the priorities and focus the available material and financial resources there. [Zubov ends]

I asked my interlocutor to comment on Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast Governor Boris Nemtsov's initiative on collecting signatures for an end to the war in Chechnya.

In my opinion, Valeriy Zubov said, this is an irresponsible act and I have told him so to his face. This was the way to resolve these questions back in 1991, not now. Well, suppose we withdraw the troops from Chechnya? Then what? What happens next? Then the "showdowns" will begin, people will work out who was on whose side, and there will be a full-scale civil war. The troops might leave, but what happens to the weapons? They will be back in the hands of those people who just recently were attacking Russian trains, robbing neighboring settlements, and committing rape and pillage. A cordon should have been placed around Chechnya back in 1991, a visa regime should have been introduced, and the payment of pensions and all the other federal budget payments should have been suspended. Now it is too late. The comparison with Afghanistan is invalid. That was a foreign country, whereas this is Russia....

Generally speaking I am an optimist and I have faith in common sense and in Russia. I am simply appalled by the obsession of journalists, and others, with voting figures. While so doing they fail to notice the main thing — namely, that the elections took place. The Russians were able to elect the power structures and people in whom they trust and believe. Is that not cause for optimism? Does this not indicate that democracy is taking root in our long-suffering country, albeit with difficulty? The second point is this. We shout about the complete collapse of the "party of power" and what is to be done now.... But what kind of collapse are we talking about? People have always had an instinctive distrust of their rulers. What is so unusual about that? Just think of what would have happened if the CPSU Central Committee had called free, contested elections in 1980. Would the ruling party have polled many votes? That's precisely my point.... Finally, our "motley" parliament is not an evil but a blessing, in my view. No longer will it casually adopt such laws as the Law on Land. The "left" will not allow that. And the "right" wing in parliament cannot do whatever it wants either. I see the way out for Russia in the balance of those two forces and in the search for a reasonable compromise. There is simply no alternative.

Economic Issues

Russia: Ministry Alarmed at Increasing Import of Foodstuffs

LD0702164396 Moscow ECONOMIC NEWS AGENCY in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Summary] Russian imports of foodstuffs in 1995 reached 40 percent, according to the Russian Economics Ministry. The figure is causing alarm, as Russian specialists have calculated that if food imports exceed 30 percent, the country becomes dependent on fluctuations in the world food market and on foreign supplies. What makes this more alarming is the fact that Russian agricultural enterprises ended 1995 with a loss of 2 trillion rubles.

Russia: No End in Sight to Agricultural Funding Deficit

MM0702124096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "Spring Sowing Campaign 'Black Hole' Will Swallow Up Another Four Trillion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin met Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha 6 February. When this issue was being signed to press the editorial office did not know all the details of this meeting but, as we were told by sources in the vice premier's entourage, they were due to discuss the issue of state support for the countryside in connection with the preparations for the spring sowing campaign, the rational distribution of federal budget appropriations, new forms of state aid, and the repayment of agricultural producers' 4 trillion-ruble debts in 1995 for commodity loans.

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Russia has at least three years' experience of various approaches to resolving this problem: Should peasants be helped to sow grain and, if so, how?

Three years ago the trillions requested by the agrarian lobby, which threatened to leave an extremely large hole in the budget, were like a red rag to a bull for the country's supporters of monetarist policy: A political corrida began ahead of the sowing campaign. At first the lobby was victorious, but the victory nonetheless proved Pyrrhic for the peasants. The trillions they obtained went anywhere but to the peasants: A recent Russian General Prosecutor's Office inspection confirmed that misuse of the money allocated for the support of agriculture reached unprecedented proportions.

Then the era of war gave way to the era of horse-trading. You got the impression that in critical situations the agrarian faction's votes in parliament had begun to be bought in return for "sowing campaign money."

Last year was the first time that the budget was not left with the traditional "spring sowing-campaign" hole, which even caused Chubays to make it up with Zaveryukha. But this hole did nonetheless form in the fall and has still not been plugged. Provision is being made to postpone until 1 January 1998 the repayment of the arrears owed by agricultural producers affected by last year's drought — and this means around 4 trillion rubles.

There is every indication that the same scenario lies in store for us this year: The current people at the economic helm, who have mastered the basics of monetarism fairly well, will hardly allow the agrarians to get their hands on budget "cash." Aid to the countryside will most likely once again take the form of commodity loans. This means the following: Oil companies that owe money to the budget provide agricultural producers with fuel and lubricants for the sowing campaign in order to pay off their debts while the latter in turn, once they have grown and sold the grain, should settle up with the state as, judging by last year's experience, they are currently failing to do.

Thus, three years' experience illustrates that state credit support for the countryside effectively meant the nonrepayable transfer of funds to rural producers, who failed to improve their position one little bit.

However, Candidate of Economic Sciences Olga Melyukhina, a scientist at the Institute of Economic Problems of the Transitional Period Agrarian Laboratory, stressed that nowhere in the world can peasants survive without credit support. Owing to the long agricultural production cycle there is a very great need for borrowed capital. The question is just who "borrows" the capital and on what terms, and how are the debts repaid. Throughout the world peasants are provided with credit via private firms; what is more a system of self-credit has been developed, that is, private farm credit cooperation. In our country only the state itself provides loans, and on terms extremely disadvantageous to itself or even nonrepayable. Last year was the first time that it was possible to avoid diverting "cash" by using commodity credit, but the crux of the problem has remained unchanged.

How are we to get the loans repaid?

As long as a rural enterprise is making inefficient use of a vast quantity of resources and is failing to orient itself on the market and on profits, it will swallow up state loans all the time just like a "black hole."

And that is precisely what it is.

Olga Melyukhina thinks that the new forms of state support announced by the vice premier on the eve of the meeting, in particular the provision of crude oil for Federation components instead of fuel and lubricants, will continue the restoration of the old distributive mechanisms in the economy — state funding, missed targets, and fixed prices.

Russia: IEPP Director Gaydar's Economic Roundtable Reported

MK0802124696 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 2

[Report by Olga Gorshunova, Sergey Mulin: "Gaydar Warns Central Bank"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A roundtable of specialists held at the Institute of Transitional Period Economics [IEPP] yesterday discussed the country's macroeconomic performance over six months between the State Duma elections and the presidential election. Opening the discussion, IEPP Director Gaydar proposed to his fellow scholars, "Let us not discuss political questions." Even responding to a direct question from the floor on differences which still prevent his alliance with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Gaydar limited himself to stating, "Our position with regard to stability of the national currency is fundamental for us. The shift in the stance of Grigoriy Alekseyevich [Yavlinskiy] during the latest "Yabloko" congress is in the right direction, I think."

As for a scenario for the first semester of 1996, in the IEPP director's words, it is fraught with a repetition in Russia of the 1994 "Mexican crash" — the budget might collapse under an avalanche of social payments not backed by resources. Gaydar's hopes are pinned on the independence of the Central Bank, which is in a

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position to decline to credit the government from the country's gold and hard currency reserves and thus turn the president's campaign "handouts" into mere promises. Yegor Timurovich [Gaydar] expects an inflow of foreign investment on the GKO [State Short-Term Bonds] market before April, which is bound to stop by May or June. Further developments will depend on the outcome of the presidential election in Russia: There will be either a sharp rise in the price of all shares or a departure of foreign investors from the Russian market.

Gaydar is sincerely sorry for Boris Yeltsin, who has to consider, in the course of the election campaign, Duma draft laws making property relations questionable. By signing them, the president assumes responsibility for social repercussions; by vetoing them, he pays with lost votes for unpopular measures.

Russia: Finance Minister on Creation of Reserve Fund for Wages

LD0702222196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1851 GMT 7 FEb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Feb 7 (INTERFAX) — The presidential reserve fund on wages will be created, and nothing will hinder its formation, acting Finance Minister Vitaliy Artyukhov said in the Federation Council, the Russian parliament's upper chamber, Wednesday.

The presidential fund for wages will be maintained with the use of non-budgetary funds, Artyukhov said. He said the reserve fund would not be financed from the federal budget or regional budgets.

The Finance Ministry already has several options regarding the financing of the presidential fund, Artyukhov said.

The federal budget will include an item providing for raising the wage by a factor of 1.5 starting from March and by a factor of two from April, he said.

Federation Council Chairman Yegor Stroyev said in summing up the results of the discussion that the information was "lamentable." However, he said it was useful as a basic guideline, as it would help to "work out a philosophical approach, draw necessary conclusions tomorrow (February 8) and draft constructive proposals regarding the financing of the regions."

The issue will be discussed at a meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the heads of the federation's constituent members, planned for February 8, Artyukhov said.

Russia: Daily Sees Wage Arrears Resolved in Mar

MM0802124296 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "We Know How to Work. We've Just Forgotten How to Pay! Kremlin Calls for Urgent Measures from Government To Solve Artificial Non-payment Problem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting was held yesterday between Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of Russian trade unions, in which representatives of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, the alternative trade unions, and all-Russia sectoral trade unions, including unions in the mining and metallurgical, air transport, and defense industries took part. The meeting discussed the problems of the nonpayment of wages to labor collectives, which is intensifying social tension in the regions and giving rise to action such as strikes, hunger strikes, and rallies. The president recalled the edict he had signed envisaging the timely payment of wages out of budgets at all levels. Sergey Medvedev, the head of state's press secretary, announced that Boris Yeltsin had issued a strict directive that mass checks into salary-nonpayment situations be carried out.

At the meeting with Russian trade union leaders the Russian president expressed the hope that they would support the resolution of social problems and called on them to monitor the payment of wages at enterprises and to jointly restore order.

View From the Finance Ministry

The Finance Ministry explains that wage delays are due partly to the unhelpfulness of ministries in ensuring that budget appropriations reach their end users and, above all, to the failure to replenish the revenue side of the budget in time. Although the wages of budget-sphere workers are a protected item of expenditure, certain sectors are indeed short of money. The solution lies in strengthening the tax system and improving collection procedures.

Anton Germanovich Siluanov, deputy chief of Finance Ministry's Budget Department, answered the newspaper's question:

"A timetable for funding federal treasury obligations has been drawn up and sent to the government for ratification. It provides a week-by-week breakdown of debt repayments for salaries, pensions, grants, and servicemen's pay. The Finance Ministry is also drawing up proposals to abolish nonbudgetary funds that were created under federal executive organs and have diverted

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some budget monies. These funds' monies will be used to pay the money owed to budget-sphere workers.

They will also be helped to restore order in their labor remuneration by the special reserve fund — an initiative of Boris Yeltsin's.

What Checks Revealed

The Finance Ministry's Control and Auditing Administration has carried out checks into the utilization of the state funds to support the miners and revealed a large number of cases which showed that the money was being used eccentrically, to put it mildly, at local level. Some 27.8 billion rubles [R] has been spent not on wages, as envisaged, or on retooling, payment of planned losses, and other urgent production and social needs, but on totally different matters. There has been a particularly large number of violations in Kemerovo Oblast. R16.7 billion there "went" on sports and charity events, the payment of all kinds of debts, the issuing of loans, and support for commercial structures. "Primorskugol" transferred R919 million to commercial structures founded by its leaders, who have second jobs there earning definite dividends and salaries. The state support funds earmarked for the wages of miners at the "Primorskoye" Mining Administration and the Artem Pit (R135 million) were spent on running a soccer team. The "Sakhalinugol" Joint-Stock Company used R100 million of the state support funds to buy an apartment for one of its leaders.

Crafty managers are "flimflamming" not only with budget funds but with their own enterprise funds. And this at a time when there is not enough money to pay the miners' wages. "Vakhrushevugol" sold 37 cars at below market price, doing considerable damage to the collective. The "Sudzhenskaya" Pit took a R59 million loss from selling coal at below cost. Selling its output on a barter basis, "Dalvostugol" received Japanese cars in return, but failed to record them in the accounts. Where did they get to?

Governor's View

Our correspondent was told by Governor Anatoliy Lisitsyn about the way things are in one specific region.

Judging by the press, the illusion is being created that the Finance Ministry is allegedly issuing the money, and the regions are to blame for the pay holdups. In actual fact things are far more complicated. The situation regarding the delays in pensions and pay did not arise overnight or by accident. All federal structures are being just 60-percent funded. Thus, the Yaroslavl Police's allocation from the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] is R30 billion short. Funds totaling R90 billion have not been paid to the defense complex for the state orders carried out by our enterprises. The social sphere in the oblast has become a "black hole." Its contents were entirely the responsibility of the local authorities. After all, last year no provision for money for these purposes was made in the oblast budget. R120 billion needed to be used to buy fuel for boiler stations, and that money could have gone on wages.

Situation in a Labor Collective

Construction workers working on the Severomuyskiy Tunnel, to whom the Ministry of Railways owes billions of rubles, are threatening to stage an open-ended strike in mid-February. The tunneling workers have just 637 meters of hard rock to get through, and construction of the 15-km tunnel — which has been under way for 18 years — will be completed. But the main obstacle is not even hard rock, but chronic nonpayments. The Ministry of Railways has promised to pay R11 billion in the very near future, and to pay another R30 billion by April. They have been believed this time on the following condition — in the event of another deception, an open-ended strike will be called in mid-February.

Commentary By Russian Federation Presidential Aide

We cannot, Russian Federation Presidential Aide Aleksandr Livshits stated, leave untouched a situation where people who have not been paid and who are working for budget-funded organizations are asking the single question — "why do I need this kind of democracy?" And there is nothing that anyone with a conscience can say in response.

The main thing of concern to the president is the chronic delays in paying wages to those dependent on the budget. He sees this as a blatant violation of the socioeconomic rights of people who have not been compensated by any political freedoms. His position on this issue is very strict.

The president has instructed the government to draw up a range of measures to remedy the situation with the federal budget and to ensure that salary backlogs are paid.

What is envisaged are purely economic measures — above all, relating to incomes. This plan is currently with the president, and if he approves it, the situation will have been substantially rectified by March.

At the same time, there is the other side of the coin on salary backlogs — enterprises have the money in their accounts but are using it for other purposes. Administrative as well as economic measures can help in this area. This situation was covered by Edict No. 66

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on the personal responsibility of officials for the timely payment of salaries in the budget sphere.

After the edict was signed, the president gave instructions to the President's Control Administration, the Finance Ministry's Control and Auditing Administration, and a number of other services to carry out checks into how it is being implemented. These checks are nearing completion, and I think that a report on the results of the work will be on the president's desk by the end of this week.

If the president approves the plan for measures to execute the budget, the situation with budget debts will have been normalized by March.

Russia: Expert Assesses Draft Wage Regulation Law

MM0702101896 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 3 Feb 96 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report under the "Topic of the Day" rubric comprising an unsigned departmental memorandum and a commentary by Doctor of Sociological Sciences Aleksandr Orlov, executive director of the "Russian Business Roundtable" and director of the Center for Comprehensive Social Research and Marketing: "For Whom Is the Wage Rate Net Being Created?" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA has discovered that the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor has drawn up a draft Law "On Wage Rate Regulation of Labor Remuneration." It has, as they say, been long expected. In our view the text of an explanatory departmental memorandum in the possession of our editorial office is of interest to a wide circle of readers. We are publishing extracts from it. [end of introduction]

An economic policy that envisaged an overly stringent reduction of money in circulation resulted in a permanent non-payments crisis in all sectors of the economy, and, as a result, in delays in the payment of wages and a lowering of their level in real terms....

Against this background, the absolute rejection of state wage regulation seems unjustified. Questions of wage regulation in economically accountable organizations have practically speaking been left to the corps of directors, while the salaries of individual managers has risen to 20-25 times the average wage of workers in the relevant enterprises and organizations. Excessive wage differentiation is also increasing in the major social groups: The ratio of wages of the 10 percent of workers in the lowest wage bracket to the those of the 10 percent in the highest wage bracket increased from 1:6 (1990-1991) to 1:20 (1992-1995). It is significant that this trend affects all categories of workers, all sectors, and each component of the Russian Federation.

Skill levels, results, and working conditions have practically stopped having an influence on wages. While in 1991 under wage rate regulation their levels in industry, transportation, and communications differed within a range of 10 percent, wages in transportation and communications in 1995 were 1.5 times greater than in industry. The average wage in agriculture — which in 1991 was 70 percent of that the construction industry — fell to 36 percent in 1994.

Unfortunately, the Law "On Collective Contracts and Agreements," which was adopted in the Russian Federation, has not proved its worth.

It is in these circumstances that the draft Russian Federation Law "On Wage Rate Regulation of Labor Remuneration" is being proposed. The norms and regulations stipulated by it are based on the fact that...the center of gravity in wage rate regulation should be shifted to the Russian Federation's components.

It is envisaged that specific proposals on the minimum wage as a social norm and the procedure for its review based on the increase in consumer prices for goods and services and the change in labor productivity and so on, will be included in a General Agreement.

Additional resources from the federal budget and local budgets in connection with the adoption of the proposed draft law are not required. [end of memorandum]

Expert Opinion

We approached Doctor of Sociological Sciences Aleksandr Orlov, executive director of the "Russian Business Roundtable" and director of the Center for Comprehensive Social Research and Marketing, for his comments on the new legislative initiative.

"A document which concerns the financial interests of millions of citizens should be thoroughly discussed. Unfortunately this has not been done. The Center for Comprehensive Social Research and Marketing has carried out such an expert investigation on its own initiative. Our experts are afraid that we are witnessing an attempt to revive strict centralized wage regulation. This is not only a violation of the rights of independent subjects of economic relations — corporate bodies and individuals, but it is also unrealizable in practice as the state today does not have a realistic mechanism for implementing this law if it is adopted.

"It is said that workers' rights today are practically unprotected, especially in private business. This also goes for social guarantees, the payment of wages on

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time, and much else besides. But the rights of the employer and the private entrepreneur are, incidentally, protected even less. I see the situation in the following manner: It is up to the employer and manager to organize the labor process, including the hiring of personnel and compensating them for their efforts, paying them for their work. It is up to the worker and the collective to work and defend their own interests. It is the state's task to see to it that both sides 'play by the rules.' I think that if you take into consideration the economic and other features of the transitional period, the most realistic and effective measure today would be for collective agreements to be concluded between the employers and workers' representatives. Unfortunately, in practice few enterprises can say with confidence what the situation will be in six months' or a year's time.

"Due to the enormous difference in conditions in the various organizations, the sector and territorial agreements are today practically impossible to put into effect.

"The system of such agreements operates successfully in all civilized countries and nobody disputes the necessity to develop relations based on agreements here. But the point is that wage rate regulation should be carried out on a mutual basis in all the economy's sectors, including in organizations that are financed from the state budget.

"Unfortunately, the state — which as yet is still the largest employer — often cannot provide its workers with more or less acceptable living conditions. When it really becomes possible to live on the minimum wage or allowance, such a law will then be essential. But not in this form.

"One more fundamental point. Article 8 says: 'The leader of a federal organ of executive power has the right to unilaterally extend the action of norms of sectoral and wage rate agreements...to organizations...not participating in the conclusion of the corresponding wage rate agreements.'

"It is obvious that the leader of the local executive branch of power who is on the spot can and should exert an influence on those organizations under his authority. This is a local individual initiative as no one has as yet given him the right to extend any of the agreements' provisions to private enterprises. At least as long as the state cannot supply the needs of its own workers to a high standard and on time.

"I hope that the government and the State Duma will pay attention to these observations as the implementation of the aforementioned draft's provisions may complicate the painstaking work to create conditions in Russia for a social partnership."

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma Justifies Not Joining CIS Customs Union

WS0802114596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0043 GMT 8 Feb 96

[Report by Natalia Petiakh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb. 6 — President Leonid Kuchma said in refusing to join Russian-led CIS multilateral agreements last month in Moscow, he was "proceeding from the national interests of the state."

During the talks with the Russians, Kuchma said, "we opposed dual citizenship [for Russians living in Ukraine]. This is nonsense."

Kuchma, speaking to district administration chiefs at the Academy for State Management, said "Russia will not leave Sevastopol, because it [Russia] has strategic interests outside the city's limits." Kuchma said Ukraine must focus on creation of "normal conditions for the Russian fleet in Crimea."

Kuchma accused Russia of sabotaging the free trade agreement between the two countries. "I don't see that any of our neighbors is interested in an economically strong Ukraine," he said.

A working free trade system is a necessary pre-requisite for a customs union, and "if free trade doesn't work, a customs union wouldn't work as well." Kuchma said in a customs union, Ukraine would "be crushed by strong Russian production and capital."

Still, the president said relations with Russia are Ukraine's top foreign policy priority.

Ukraine: Kuchma Meets German Minister, Comments on Chernobyl

LD0702225096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2141 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, February 8 (Itar-Tass) — "Ukraine has never said it will not shut down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. But nor will it do so for the sake of making a report either," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said.

The statement was made during Kuchma's meeting with visiting German Minister for the Environment, Conservation and Reactor Safety Angela Merkel on Wednesday.

Kuchma noted that Ukraine expects the West to produce a clearer programme for closing down the plant.

Ukraine: BSF Commander's Last Press Conference Reported

WS0702140596 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 1 Feb 96 p 5

[Report by Volodymyr Kolychev: "There Will Be Neither Russian Nor Ukrainian Fleets in the Black Sea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Admiral Eduard Baltin considers the "combat readiness maintained at an appropriate level" and the absence of major extraordinary events threatening to inflict personnel casualties to be the main result of his activities as Black Sea Fleet [BSF] commander. He stated this at his last news conference which he conducted as the Fleet's chief. The conference lasted almost one hour and a half, compared to the not more than 20 minutes that Admiral Baltin usually had for journalists.

The point is that the Yalta Agreement, concluded by Russia and Ukraine in 1992 to define the future of the Black Sea Fleet, expired on 31 December 1995. "When you think about it, the agreement was wise and one should not have criticized it," Admiral Baltin noted. First, the Black Sea Fleet's financing was evenly split between Russia and Ukraine. Second, the Fleet command received a task to create the Ukrainian Navy. If that accord had been complied with, the admiral stressed, the Ukrainian Navy would have been "created in the form that Ukraine really needs." Eduard Baltin proposed that Kiev "form the northwestern sea area [as published] and, above all, a full-fledged brigade in Izmail. Also, one should have set up a three-division brigade, based in Odessa, to protect the water area." In addition, one should have formed two flotillas of auxiliary ships, a rescue flotilla, an air formation with a mixed helicopter squadron, and a coast guard brigade from the brigade stationed on the Mayskiy Island. In the opinion of the admiral, this would not have taken more than 18 months.

Mr. Baltin emphasized that both Russia and Ukraine need the Fleet. "Armed conflicts are under way in our region. It is not correct when they say that Ukraine has no interests in the Mediterranean Sea or other regions. The question, however, is: What are these interests? Last year in Morocco, four Ukrainian fish trawlers were captured. You should not forget about pirates..."

As for the Fleet's division, that process, in the admiral's opinion, "is not going too well. The negotiations have been conducted for three years — sufficiently long to reach agreement." He stressed the fact that "everything should be based on advisability and need." In Baltin's opinion, it is more expensive to eliminate or divide one of the Fleet's units than assemble the same unit or

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formation. "Right now, we are going to become divided, and there will be neither Russian, nor Ukrainian Fleets. There will be separate small boats, small admirals, and small officers. No one will need the Fleet in such a form," Admiral Baltin declared.

At the present time, due to the lack of financing, sailing near Ukrainian and Russian borders is not secure because out of 1,018 signs and radio beacons, not more than 60 percent are operational. Near Mykolayiv, foreign vessels notoriously run aground. It is something that needs serious consideration. A foreign company loads expensive, but expired cargo on a rusty ship that no one needs. Both the ship and the cargo are protected by insurance. The captain of that foreign ship orders guidance support through the port. The support does not come. The captain grounds the ship and then sinks it. Kiev is forced to pay millions of dollars because "Liverpool insurers" have not lost a single international case in 200 years.

Mr. Baltin accused the Ukrainian Navy of excessively expanding the command personnel, and admitted that the Black Sea Fleet has a debt of about 3.2 trillion karbovantsi. He also hinted that the Georgian president also would have nothing against commanding the Fleet along with Yeltsin and Kuchma. As for the recent events in Kizlyar and Pervomaysk [in Chechnya], everything was possible after Budyonovsk [a city where Chechen militants took hospital patients hostage]. "It is better to have victims once than every day in small doses. Such little punches cultivate a special opinion about the government and damage the economy. Whatever kind of demagogy they may use, the lack of resolute actions in the very beginning will always worsen the situation later."

That was the last news conference held by the Black Sea Fleet commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin, in Sevastopol.

Ukraine: Russia Reportedly Grants Citizenship to Ukrainian Subjects

AU0802081096 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Bohdan Kushnir, MOLOD UKRAYINY special correspondent, from Moscow: "Integration Intrigues, or How the Russian Federation Interior Ministry Imposes Dual Citizenship Upon CIS Countries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the presidential elections are getting nearer, Boris Yeltsin will talk increasingly frequently about integration — the union of the republics of the former USSR. At the last meeting of the heads of state, Mr. Yeltsin again grumbled with displeasure: Ukraine is not willing to integrate (in other words, to put its head into the Russian yoke). It may even so happen that every head of a key department will soon be called on the carpet and asked: What have you done toward integration?

The Customs Union has fallen through, the Collective Security Treaty has ceased to exist. The Interparliamentary Assembly resembles a limited-liability company. What else is there to invent? A Euro-Asian union for making brooms and sweeping roads.

So far, the Russian Federation Interior Ministry has achieved the greatest success in integrating with Ukraine. Politicians just talk of dual citizenship and resort to every means for twisting their neighbors' arms. At the same time, officials with police shoulder boards have, for the second year, been supplying the Great Russia with tens of thousands of people with dual citizenship. It is not even necessary to intimidate Ukrainians with threats of cutting oil or natural gas supplies or to shake the Crimean boat. Why hold negotiations with the external political department, if there exists the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs that may issue its own departmental laws. The policemen wouldn't give a damn about international law. They have invented their own departmental instruction on work of internal affairs bodies in considering citizenship issues, an instruction that was approved by the interior minister himself (No. 330 of 30 June 1994). In accordance with the new instruction, the Russian internal affairs bodies ceased demanding from those persons, who want to be granted Russian citizenship, documentary proof that they have stopped being citizens of another country. Just 5.5 percent of them have given up Ukrainian citizenship. It is not difficult to figure out what this may lead to. Over one and a half years, 58,000 former Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Russia for permanent residence have been granted Russian citizenship. Almost all of them formally remain citizens of our country and have, de facto, dual Ukrainian-Russian citizenship.

As the MOLOD UKRAYINY correspondent was told at the Consular Department of the Ukrainian Embassy in the Russian Federation, in 1994, just 16 persons registered the loss of Ukrainian citizenship and in 1995 — five persons. These are people who got jobs with interior affairs bodies or the Russian Armed Forces.

Russian policemen have made the largest contribution to integration of the CIS countries — they have procured for their state tens of thousands of persons with dual citizenship. One wonders what will happen if, some day, sausage becomes cheaper in Ukraine and all of these people rush back. As is known, Russia wants to resolve problems of its compatriots by way of imposing the in-

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stitution of dual citizenship upon countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, something that must lead to the erosion of their statehoods. Last year alone, the Department for Issues of Citizenship at the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation held three international conferences, which were expected to show the fatherly concern of the Russian leader about his fellow citizens in CIS countries. They were supposed to convince the "younger brothers" of the urgent need to introduce dual citizenship. However, the conferences produced a totally opposite result. Acute discussions started between lawyers at scientific academic institutions and practicing lawyers at the Constitutional Court on the expediency of such "protection" for their compatriots. Moreover, almost all representatives of CIS countries, primarily Ukraine, rebelled against the insistent imposition of such a policy and refused to support Russia. The draft recommendations that were addressed by the presidential team to the CIS and Baltic states have remained drafts.

No integration, for love or money. What else can one do for intimidation?

Ukraine: Envoys Reassure on Border 'Dispute' With Romania

AU0702171896 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 3 Feb 96 p 4

[Report by Viktoriya Vlasenko: "Ukraine — Romania: The Negotiating Process Will Continue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The negotiating process with Romania will continue. This is what Volodymyr Vasylenko, Ukraine's envoy for special missions, and Oleksandr Chalyy, Ukraine's ambassador to Romania, told journalists at a scheduled Ukrainian Foreign Ministry briefing. Ukraine plans to offer to conduct the next round of negotiations with the Romanian side and also hold a meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission on Issues of Economic Cooperation. Whereas the summer round dealt with coordinating texts of the preamble of the future interstate treaty and individual articles thereof, it is possible that, this time, all articles of the treaty will be revised and particular attention will be given to problems of the national minority.

Oleksandr Chalyy is presently in Kiev to prepare grounds for the visit to Ukraine by the Romanian prime minister in March 1996. It is expected that, in the course of the visit, the Romanian and Ukrainian prime ministers will sign a number of accords that will improve trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Journalists asked Oleksandr Chalyy about the recent statement by Romanian Foreign Minister T. Melescanu on Romania appealing to the International Court in the Hague on the Ukrainian sovereignty over the Zmiyinyy Island. The ambassador replied that the passions, which some Romanian newspapers and political figures are trying to stir, are due to the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections. They will not have any appreciable effect upon signing the international Ukrainian-Romanian Treaty. Besides, one may only turn to the International Court if there is a compromise [kompromis], or a circle of questions mutually determined by the two countries.

The court will consider them if there is an element of dispute, something that does not exist in the given case. Ukraine's position has been and remains as follows: The border in the Danube Delta and around the Zmiyinyy Island was determined and confirmed by international acts, and there are no grounds for appealing to court. It is only the external borders on the continental shelf, shared by Ukraine and Romania, that may be further specified. However, this will only be addressed after signing the interstate treaty that would distinctly delineate borders on land.

"Romania is our neighbor, with whom we must and will live side by side. We are destined to be in constant contact. Consequently, I believe that one should not fear a crisis in Ukrainian-Romanian relations," stressed O. Chalyy, Ukrainian ambassador to Romania.

Ukraine: Ministry Supports Ties With PRC

WS0702151096 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0323 GMT 7 Feb 96

[By Halya Pavliva, INTELNEWS Staff Writer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb 6 — Ukraine's Foreign Ministry attempted on Tuesday to smooth over a diplomatic row with China by disputing local media reports of Chinese Embassy involvement in a spying incident and blaming Ukrainians for luring three Chinese into espionage.

The three Chinese citizens were sent home to Beijing last week after Ukraine's Security Service implicated them in the acquisition of sensitive high-technology documents at the PivdenMash missile plant in Donetsk.

"Ukrainian people who used to work for PivdenMash leaked this information and lured the Chinese into the deal," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Serheyev.

The ministry, in an official statement, denied that the incident would have any impact on the future cooperation between Ukraine and China in the high-tech realm. "The incident in Dnepropetrovsk happened as a result of an attempt by some Ukrainian citizens to carry out a non-sanctioned transfer of a sensitive information

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to Chinese specialists who had arrived in Ukraine to an invitation of the Ukrainian side," said the statement.

"There were no signs determined in the activity of the Chinese citizens that could give any reason to accuse them of espionage, and no accusations on the matter were brought against them by the Ukrainian side."

"The Foreign Ministry has not carried out any demarches in this connection before the Chinese Embassy to Ukraine (and) expresses its hope that the misunderstanding that has arisen as a result of publication of unverified information in the press will do no harm to the development of Ukrainian-Chinese relations."

National Affairs

Ukraine: Supreme Council Adopts Protocol on Constitution

LD0702215896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — On 7 February the Ukrainian Supreme Council adopted a protocol instruction that the Supreme Council Commission for Legal Policy and Court and Legal Reform and the Commission for Legal Policy, State-Building, Council Activities, and Self-Government should summarize deputies' proposals on the concept of a new Ukrainian constitution, adopted by the previous parliament in 1993.

Speaking on behalf of the Supreme Council Commission for State- Building, people's Deputy Volodymyr Moyseyenko said that "the president has decided to assume a monopoly over the constitutional process and impose his own constitution," and that is why the commission, comprising mostly Communists, proposes that changes are made to this concept and that a new basic law be prepared on this basis.

According to Moyseyenko, the commission is in favor of replacing the presidential form of government with a parliamentary form of government and abolishing the institution of the presidency. The commission is also in favor of reviving Soviet-style vertical executive power.

Commenting on this speech, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz emphasized that, taking into account the polarization of political views in society and parliament, it will be very difficult to adopt a constitution that will satisfy everyone. According to him, norms should be set out in it, which will make it possible for the political force with most support in society to take power.

Moroz stressed that, as parliament had not passed decisions against the 1993 concept of the constitution over the course of several years, the constitutional commission should take it into account when preparing the final text of the basic law.

"The constitutional commission has taken into account all proposed drafts of the constitution and the entire constitutional base worked out over the last few years, including the 1993 concept of the constitution," said Volodymyr Butkevych, head of the group working on preparing a new constitution, at a news conference on 7 February.

He said that in the course of the week the working group had completed preparations of the draft constitution and was now examining Article 154 of the draft constitution's 159 articles.

Butkevych emphasized that even if a new concept proposed by parliament's left-wing forces is adopted, it will not be binding on the constitutional commission.

Ukraine: Kuchma: Forces in Parliament Attempting To Block Program

LD0702223896 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[No video available]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During a visit to the state corporation Kievmistbud on 7 February, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in an interview with our correspondent said that certain political forces in the Supreme Council are attempting to block the government's program of action. According to Kuchma, yesterday's appeal by the president to people's deputies was a consequence of this. As is known, Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council, today assessed this appeal as an attempt to attack the parliament.

[Begin Kuchma recording] I realized that a subtle political game was being played by certain political forces and circles in the Supreme Council practically to block the government's program of actions, because this program cannot work without legislative provision. For this reason I would like to repeat my appeal to every deputy, because often when one sends a letter to the chairman of the Supreme Council the deputies do not learn about it and society is not familiar the work that was done. The economy is the most important thing for Ukraine and for every citizen. So let us sidestep our political passions and begin working for the cause as we saw today in this building for the people. I am convinced that common sense will prevail. I also know the responses of many deputies. We must really start working on more specific problems and not dwell on political statements and so on. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Ukraine: Communists Propose Alternative Constitution

WS0802122596 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0043 GMT 8 Feb 96

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Feb. 7 — Ukraine's Communists on Wednesday made their official entrance into the country's great constitutional debate, proposing their own alternative model of government that would eliminate the presidency and officially resurrect the "Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic."

The document was unveiled in Parliament by Communist Volodymyr Moisenko on behalf of the State Building, local Radas and Local Self-Government Committee.

According to Moisenko, his committee proposes to call the constitution the "Constitution of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic."

According to Moisenko, the Communists want to abolish Ukraine's status as a presidential republic and eliminate the presidency. He said that when the former Parliament created the post of President it meant it to be a temporary position and warned against attempts to make it permanent through a new constitution to replace the one Ukraine inherited from the Soviet era.

The Communist proposal would also specify that Parliament is the supreme body of state power and the Cabinet of Ministers the supreme body of executive power, subordinated to Parliament.

The proposal also specifies that the constitution be ratified by referendum.

Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz said the draft would be sent to the Constitutional Committee for discussion.

Volodymyr Butkevych, co-chairman of the working group preparing the draft within Constitutional Committee, said on Thursday the group "would not consider any new proposals" because its work was "almost completed."

Butkevych said he believed that the constitution will be passed by the current Parliament this year. Butkevych said the group had decided that the Prime Minister should execute foreign and domestic policy and the President is the head of state.

Presidential chief of staff Dmytro Tabachnyk, commenting on the latest round of constitutional talk, said that "Parliament has time to discuss political issues, but it does not have time to perform its direct task — legislative activity."

Ukraine: Complaints Over Communist Party's Activities

LD0702220496 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian president's press office reports that the number of appeals to the head of our state by political parties, associations, and individuals about the Communist Party's destructive activities has increased considerably recently. People have been expressing deep concern at what could result from the collection of signatures for a referendum, initiated by the Communist leadership, on reviving the former Soviet Union and changing Ukraine's state system and symbols.

In particular, war veterans from Staryy Sambor in Lvov region describe the Communists' intentions as an attempt to achieve narrow party interests by stirring up the situation in society. Condemning harshly such provocative actions, (Kulish), chairman of the district veterans' council, calls on the power structures to put an end to the Communist Party's anti-state activities. The veterans blame the present Communist leadership for these ill-considered policies.

Ukraine: President Issues Decree on Restructuring Coal Industry

LD0702230296 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, on 5 February Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma took part in a meeting of the presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers which considered the work of the coal industry. We learned that the Ukrainian president signed a decree today which defined the main areas for radically restructuring this sector which is very important for our economy.

In particular, the decree states that mines and other structural subdivisions of associations, trusts and combines that are within the Coal Industry Ministry's sphere of control should be granted the status of corporate body within a month. The Corporatization of state enterprises, mines, establishments, associations, combines and trusts that are within the Coal Industry Ministry's sphere of control should be carried out by 1 September 1996. State joint-stock coal companies and state holding companies should be formed. They will act independently in order to sell their output at prices agreed with their consumers and they need to declare this only if domestic wholesale prices exceed those on the international markets; funds received through the sale of facilities in the process of restructuring the coal industry should be transferred to

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the relevant accounts of the non-budgetary state privatization fund. After the expenses for privatizing these facilities have been reimbursed the remaining funds in these accounts should be channeled into the technical re-equipping of enterprises and the replenishment of working capital in coal extraction and coal enriching enterprises.

Ukraine: Government 'Hardening Resolve' on Coal Miners

WS0802114396 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0043 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Halia Pavliva and Oleksandr Pukhov, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk, Feb. 7 — Ukraine's government is hardening its resolve as international attention is being drawn to a nationwide coal miners strike now in its seventh day.

"The country doesn't owe miners a penny," said presidential chief of staff Dmytro Tabachnyk at a Wednesday briefing.

"Miners are not paid by their coal consumers," Tabachnyk said. "The state is determined to help. Great work is being done by the government."

"The government's position remains unchanged: an hour of strike won't be paid for," he said.

International organization of power engineering workers and miners Secretary General Alan Simon appealed to President Leonid Kuchma, asking him to "take urgent measures to satisfy demands of the striking miners."

In his letter, Simon said that "satisfaction of the Ukrainian miners' demands is a matter of restoring justice, and providing for the economic development of your country and its face abroad."

"Coming out for urgent satisfaction of their demands and condemning the groundless importation of coal, the Ukrainian miners demonstrate that they defend the national interests of their country, which possesses huge coal reserves," the letter reads.

Simon also said that "the world's entire miners' community" is at one with the Ukrainian striking coal miners.

In the meantime, the government is continuing reports of the failure of the strike.

According to a Coal Ministry report issued Wednesday, 190,000 tons of coal were extracted throughout the country on Monday, a relatively slight drop from the Jan. 31 (pre-strike) haul of 202,000 tons.

Ukraine: Marchuk Asks Trade Unions To Support Welfare Concept

LD0702185896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, (UNIAN) — At a meeting on 7 February Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk and Ukrainian trade union representatives discussed social welfare issues. The prime minister proposed that the trade unions support the government concept on this issue, UNIAN has learned from the head of the Cabinet of Ministers Press Service, Anatoliy Murakhovskyy.

Marchuk emphasized that the problem requires cooperation between the government and trade unions with the involvement of the Supreme Council, as there are still many draft laws left which have been prepared by the government but have not yet been adopted by parliament.

They also discussed the situation in the state's economy, particularly in the coal industry.

According to the prime minister, the debt for miners' wages is not a budgetary one. However, in order to resolve this problem the government has worked out a schedule for subsidies to the coal industry. Over the next 20 days the total sum will reach 15,000 billion karbovantsi.

Marchuk said that this would only partly resolve the problem of the debt to miners.

Accords were reached at the meeting with regard to the possibility, if necessary, of monthly meetings between government and trade union representatives.

Ukraine: Official on Adoption of Crimean Constitution

WS0702152396 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 30 Jan 96 p 3

[Interview with Ukrainian People's Deputy Yuriy Karmazin, head of the Supreme Council Temporary Commission for Studying the Political and Legal Situation in Crimea, by L. Hlushkovetska; place and date not given: "Ukrainian Supreme Council Will Not Approve Crimean Constitution in Such a Contradicting Form"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Drafting the new constitution is similar to that in which a renowned knight once found himself: the torment of chosing another route, although of a rather symbolic nature, does exist. Besides, Ukraine as one of the traditional citadels of relative stability on the territory of the former Soviet Union, will hardly change the course of its route by passing the new basic

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law. The Crimean Autonomous Republic is a different matter, given that some of its political forces regard the approval of the peninsula's new constitution as a reason for greater "sovereignty."

Pro-Moscow circles in Crimea have not lost their hope for returning the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to the bosom of "the only and indivisible," and use the slightest excuses to increase tension and make people angry. Demands directed to the Supreme Council to approve the newly drafted Crimean Constitution are currently the reason for clamorous rallies in Simferopol central squares.

In addition, not only the constant participants in those rallies but also the majority of the peninsula's Supreme Soviet demand that the Crimean draft basic law be passed. However, is it really necessary to pass the Autonomous Republic's constitution in such a hasty manner? Does it not go beyond Ukraine's legal framework? A UKRAYINA MOLODA correspondent asked People's Deputy Yuriy Karmazin, head of Ukraine's interim Supreme Council Commission, which was established for examining the political-legal situation in Crimea, to give his stance on the developments surrounding the draft of the new Crimean Constitution.

[Karmazin] If we want to establish a democratic and an independent state, there should be no grounds for the appearance of separatist intentions in Ukraine. As we know, they are quite strong in the peninsula. Therefore, we should study the Crimean Constitution in detail, including every section.

This constitution has been already discussed by the Ukrainian parliamentary Commission for Legal Policy and Judicial and Legal Reform Issues. Incidentally, I would like to point out that the basic law of the Autonomous Republic was submitted to the Supreme Council with a seven-month delay. The Crimeans did not worry very much about its meticulous drafting. Why then did they raise a hue and cry preventing other people from carrying out their work?

Certain Crimean activists, as well as the mass media, have launched a stormy anti-Ukrainian and anti-state campaign. The pro-Moscow KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper demonstrates particular diligence, carrying articles under the following headlines: "We Are Sick of Red Tape," "Prattling From Kiev," or "Impertinence." Through the militant pathos of its articles long-term plans can be easily seen: to change the political atmosphere in Crimea by all means.

[Hlushkovetska] How do you assess the public actions held in Crimea to protest Kiev's delay in passing the Autonomous Republic's Constitution?

[Karmazin] We did not expect anything else. Those unsanctioned meetings usually become arrogant, provocative actions, prepared by the same biased pro-Russian activists. They entirely disregard the basic law of Ukraine. They produce nihilistic legal acts, something that has affected the newly drafted Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and naturally evoked a number of questions in the commission.

Let us take, for instance, the clause which stipulates the inclusion of the city of Sevastopol into the Autonomous Republic. It contradicts Section 77 of Ukraine's basic law, which stipulates that Crimea is an administrative-territorial autonomous area, and not a purely territorial autonomous area. Proceeding from this, it seems that on paper the Ukrainian law is valid on the Crimean territory, but the vertical connection between the governments of Ukraine and Crimea disappears.

There are other essential discrepancies in this document,. particularly in the article "The Basis of Constitutional Power" which does not regulate the issue of the language status in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

[Hlushkovetska] You have outlined for us the political situation, so to speak. How does the economic situation of Crimea look in light of its legal chaos?

[Karmazin] Among other conclusions drawn by the commission is also the following: Certain people are trying to derail the state order in Ukraine. I would like to recall such an example. Recently, during a session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, Anatoliy Franchuk was dismissed from the post of prime minister of the Autonomous Republic. It was only two days before the elections to the parliament of Ukraine. The commission became interested in the reasons behind such a decision. The point is that during his work in Crimea's Cabinet of Ministers, he had done a lot to stabilize the Crimean economy: farmers harvested quite a big grain crop; Ukraine's first "Sevash" free economic zone began to operate; some of the industrial enterprises began to get up off the floor. This is the reason why two days after Anatoliy Franchuk's dismissal, over 70 percent of the electorate of the Kerch industrial region, which is one of the biggest in Ukraine, voted for him as Ukraine's Supreme Council deputy. In addition, Crimean political scientists have declared him "the man of the year."

It turned out that the dismissal of "the man of the year" was initiated by Volodymyr Klychnykov, former deputy of Tsekov and former speaker of the Crimean Supreme Soviet. He did not like the fact that Anatoliy Franchuk began to clarify the issue of the disappearance of funds which had been allocated for overcoming the consequences of the 1994 drought. At that time, 100 billion karbovantsi were allocated for this purpose from

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the budget of the Autonomous Republic, some of which was used, mildly speaking, improperly.

The Crimean Prosecutor's Office was very well-informed about it, but did not initiate criminal proceedings.

I would like to underscore that enforceable acts, both Ukraine's and the Autonomous Republic's, have been violated in Crimea, whereas law enforcement bodies have turned a blind eye toward this. So far, Crimean Supreme Soviet Deputy Kruhlov has not been brought up on charges, despite the fact that the General Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine has opened a criminal case for his voicing appeals to change Ukraine's state borders at unsanctioned meetings. It becomes clear why people in the peninsula want to be "independent" so much.

[Hlushkovetska] Mr. Karmazin, when will Kiev finally discuss the Crimean Constitution?

[Karmazin] I think that this will take place in the immediate future. We will consider everything in the proper manner. However, we will not purposely procrastinate in discussing this document, something we are often accused of.

We think that the Supreme Council of Ukraine cannot pass the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic in the form submitted to us by the Crimeans. In the future, everything will depend not on those people who want to change the political atmosphere in the peninsula to the empire forces' advantage, but on those who care for a united, powerful, and independent Ukraine.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Government Resolution on Foreign Investment

LD0702185696 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1340 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved a list of state-owned enterprises, the privatization of which it would be expedient to carry out with the involvement of foreign investment.

In accordance with the resolution, Ukraine's State Property Fund is to take a decision by 1st April 1996 on privatizing the said enterprises. The involvement of foreign investment should occur on a competitive basis, as a rule through the sale of packages of shares of open joint-stock companies.

In addition, the government has obliged the State Property Fund, the Finance Ministry, the Statistics Ministry and the Anti-Monopoly Committee to prepare by 1st December this year a draft list of enterprises, in the privatization of which it would be expedient to involve foreign investment in 1997.

Ukraine: Kuchma Calls For Positive Economic Phenomena

LD0602211796 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 6 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at a meeting with state administration deputy chairmen on agro-industrial complex issues today, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma called for the reinforcement of positive phenomena in the Ukrainian economy. The meeting focussed on preparations for spring field work, the creation of modern equipment for rural areas, and the taxation policy for state contracts.

The president emphasized that the main thing to be done in the near future is to create a national program for the development of the agrarian sector. In his opinion, such a program should be submitted for examination to the Supreme Council no later than March. The president believes that this is possible.

Ukraine: Marchuk Seeks To Secure Investments at Davos Forum

AU0702182696 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "If the Image Is 'Peculiar,' It Must Be Altered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our delegation, headed by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, arrived in Davos (Switzerland) to take part in the World Economic Forum and make yet another step toward attracting investments to Ukraine, including the coal industry. In an interview for INTERFAX-UKRAYINA, Ye. Marchuk pointed out that "serious investments are not coming to Ukraine" and accounted for this by "Ukraine's peculiar image in the world business." In his opinion, our country's participation in the forum will make it possible to make a step toward world cooperation.

According to Serhiy Osyka, minister of external economic ties and trade, the delegation has stayed in Davos a little longer in order to be able, after the session, to hold more profound negotiations with the leadership of the Republic of South Africa. In the course of these talks, the creation of what may be called a "trade triangle" will be discussed: Ukraine-Israel-South Africa. This topic had already been discussed during the meeting between Yevhen Marchuk and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at the end of last week.

Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk also met with Stanley Fisher, first deputy executive director of the Interna-

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tional Monetary Fund [IMF]. S. Fisher expressed hope that, at the meeting of the Council of IMF directors in April, a decision will be adopted on granting Ukraine the fourth tranche of the standby credit amounting to $350 million. The IMF also promised to help resolve the problem of the Ukrainian debt for Russian energy sources. In April of 1995, the IMF leadership adopted a decision on granting Ukraine a credit of $1.5 billion for financial stabilization and payment for critical imports, including gas supplies from Russia and Turkmenistan. Negotiations in this direction will continue.

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Belarus

Belarus: Western Officials Refuse To Meet Lukashenka

WS0702124896 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 6 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Andrey Karenich: "The West Openly Ignores Lukashenka"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A SVABODA reporter has found out from sources close to the Belarusian Foreign Ministry about the reasons behind President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's refusal to participate in the world's greatest economic forum in Davos, Switzerland.

At the forum, Belarus was represented by Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir and Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetski.

It seems quite logical that the leader of a state that badly needs foreign investments should participate in an economic forum. The forum is attended by the world's most important industrialists and businessmen. The greatest economic agreements are reached in Davos. The reason which prompted Lukashenka's refusal to attend the forum is unexpected, however predictable: All the most important foreign officials who had been asked to hold meetings with the Belarusian president categorically refused immediately after they heard the name of Lukashenka. The president reacted very emotionally to the fact that the West openly ignored him. What else did Lukashenka expect after his pro-Hitler statements, the downed U.S. hot air balloon, and the like?

Incidentally, Mikhail Chyhir, too, realizes that his visit to Davos made no sense because as long as Belarus's relations with the IMF do not get normalized, Lukashenka is the only person anticipating foreign investments. Meanwhile, after virtually fruitless visits to Minsk by U.S. and German businessmen, the president, too, should have realized this simple fact.

So far, according to SVABODA's information, the IMF team which is currently in Minsk is leaning toward another postponement of issuing the second tranche of the standby credit, in light of the government's failure to implement the program of economic reform financed by IMF credits.

Belarus: Legislator on Prospects for Integration Into Europe

WS0602151696 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 96 p 6

[Report on interview with Pyotr Krawchanka, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commission, by unidentified correspondent on 29 January; place not given: "Many Things Will Have To Be Changed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A delegation of the Belarusian parliament returned from its trip to the Council of Europe Interparliamentary Assembly. On 29 January, the members of the delegation — [Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman] Yuryy Malumaw, [chairman of the Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commission] Pyotr Krawchanka, and [former Supreme Soviet Chairman] Mechaslaw Hryb — held a news conference at which they reported on the results of the trip.**

At the last session of the Interparliamentary Assembly, Russia was admitted to the Council of Europe. Its admission was supported by 164 delegates and opposed by 35. According to Pyotr Krawchanka, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Foreign Affairs Commission, Russia *was granted an advance. Russia's admission was rather a political act directed toward stimulating the process of democratic transformations.*

Russia's admission to the Council of Europe is an encouraging factor for Belarus. According to Mechaslaw Hryb, there is hope that Belarus may become a member of this influential European organization as early as November this year. The question of Belarus' admission to this organization was connected to a significant extent with the outcome of the parliamentary elections. Delegates of the Interparliamentary Assembly highly assessed the election of the legitimate Supreme Soviet. One can expect now that the process of Belarus' admission to the Council of Europe will be considerably accelerated.

Council of Europe experts have prepared a number of recommendations for changing the Belarusian legislation. The recommendations primarily refer to the Belarusian law on elections and the law on the media. In principle, as Pyotr Krawchanka noted, *"Belarus is now in the beginning of the way toward transforming the current legislation."* Overall, amendments should be made in more than 20 laws. According to Mechaslaw Hryb, in order to join the Council of Europe, *Belarus should firmly enter the path of democratization, implementing reforms, and observing human rights.*

At BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA's request, Pyotr Krawchanka answered a number of questions.

[BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA] Pyotr Kuzmich, approximately half the year ago, there arose an issue of revising Belarus' membership of a number of international organizations, inasmuch as the membership of them does not pay for itself. Now the

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expediency of joining the Council of Europe is being questioned. Does this mean that we have to incur more expenses?

[Krawchanka] I saw a mention in the press stating that some deputy foreign ministers had raised the issue of terminating our fees to the UNESCO budget. I think that the matter may be explained by the lack of experience on the part of young Belarusian diplomats. It is simply necessary to work more skillfully, with more energy, and be able to obtain direct political dividends and financial aid, as this is done by Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the Baltics. Neither Poland nor Russia or the Baltics put this question in such a way.

Joining the Council of Europe will give Belarus the green light on the way toward European integration. Without this, it is impossible to count on joining the European Union in the next 10-15 years. Regarding the Council of Europe itself, we should realize that it is a political superstructure; joining this superstructure opens the way for a country to join the European Union, an economic superstructure. It is necessary first to create conditions for transit of ideas and information, then for the transit of commodities and capitals. If we fail to join the Council of Europe, we may very soon find ourselves on the sidelines of European politics. Now, along with warring Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are the last countries outside the Council of Europe. In other words, the funds contributed by us in the form of membership fees have a chance to give returns.

[BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA] In one of his addresses, the president mentioned that there had been some political games played around our admission to the Council of Europe.

[Krawchanka] I have not seen nor known such statements. We do not color the reality, nor cover some traces. We conduct a serious dialogue on the state level about what is good and how to resolve existing problems. As for speculations, malicious joys, or obtaining pleasure — delight [preceding word in Belarusian], to put it in Belarusian — from the situation within the country, this is not my attitude today. It is necessary to think of how to get rid of these shortcomings.

[BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA] In your opinion, what is the main obstacle on Belarus' way toward joining the Council of Europe?

[Krawchanka] Undoubtedly, this is the law on the media and those 25 laws (the prosecutor's office, courts, detention, norms of detention) which we mainly inherited from the former Soviet Union and which are imperfect. However, this is characteristic of all Central European countries, as well as of Russia. We have the same afflictions. I think that our participation in the session where Russia was admitted to the Council of Europe will prove very very useful for us....

[BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA] You said at the news conference that if there were joint efforts and good will on the part of the executive and legislative authorities, then the difference of opinions regarding the law on the media could be overcome. Do you think that this unity can be achieved?

[Krawchanka] You know, there is an old French saying: Consent is the lack of resistance on both sides....

Belarus: President, Minister Examine Foreign Policy Activities

LD0702210596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 7 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky,and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief task of the Belarusian foreign policy is "to merge with the new balance of international political forces, keep sovereignty and ensure a reliable future and prosperity to the Belarusian people," president Aleksandr Lukashenka told an expanded meeting of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry's board in Minsk.

"West European nations show extreme egoism and one-sided approach, they wish to subordinate everyone to their rules in the current system of economic and political coordinates," said the president. Thus, the Belarusian policy of economic integration with Russia "is taken as a threat."

Lukashenka reaffirmed the invariability of his stand on NATO expansion with East European nations. He is categorically against this plan. "All of us favor stability on this continent, but a new network of European security should not be accompanied by creation of new barriers," said Lukashenka.

He called on power institutions to more actively promote Belarusian trade and economic relations, and lamented over "sporadic and fragmentary" efforts of diplomats in this sphere.

The state leader recommended foreign ministry staffers to "pay more attention to the developing countries. Our traditional sales markets are in Latin America, Africa and Asia," said the president.

He called on deputies to make the soonest comprehensive analysis of export abilities of the Belarusian industry, agriculture, science and technology, and decide

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"which goods the republic is capable to make and easily sell on the international market."

First Deputy Belarusian Foreign Minister Valeriy Tysapkala told an exclusive Interfax interview "last year's work of the ministry was rather successful."

"Despite the fact the American Congress started to cut the allocations done under the Nunn-Lugar law, the Belarusian foreign ministry managed to keep these programs afloat," he said.

"Within a short time two agreements were coordinated with the Americans and signed to ensure $8 million aid to Belarus for elimination of the basement of intercontinental ballistic missile launchers and processing of liquid missile fuel," said Tysapkala.

According to the diplomat, the same sum will be spent on liquidation of the strategic forces' infrastructure. The Americans will allocate another $3 million to create a "system of nuclear materials' physical protection" in Belarus.

Important documents signed last year include a Belarusian-Japanese agreement on cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation, said the diplomat. Under this agreement, Japan took an obligation to allocate $5.24 millions worth of material-technical aid to Belarus.

A drawback of the foreign ministry is "the lack of a decision on Belarusian participation in UN peacekeeping operations." The ministry has preliminarily discussed this issue via its permanent representation at the Unite Nations. "Belarus could participate in the so-called system of reserve agreements, and assign to the United Nations peacekeeping volunteers or material-technical means."

However, these plans are suspended on "domestic reasons," lamented Tysapkala.

Belarus: Military Contacts Expanded With China, Iraq

LD0702222096 Minsk Radiostantsiya Belarus International Service in Belarusian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The external economic activities of the Ministry of Defense became much more intensive this year. The ministry hopes that this will bring them additional funds for development of the social sphere. In particular, a delegation from the Chief Staff and the Baranovichi aircraft repairs works has visited Beijin. Chinese military aviation machinery will now be repaired in Baranovichi. Training courses for Chinese specialists will also be held there.

Work is under way on details of the agreement on training future Chinese officers, using the facilities of the Military Academy, in the specialities which are in the shortest supply: the air defense, the signals and the artillery troops.

Contracts for the sale of armoured machinery, small-arms and artillery ammunition may be realized in the first quarter of this year.

The Ministry of Defense of Iraq is also trying to expand their contacts with the Belarusian military. As well as China and Iraq, Ministry of Defense of Belarus has as their potential trading partners Slovakia, Moldova and Korea. Besides, there are more and more trips made from a number of African countries which would like to make military purchases in Belarus.

Moldova

Moldova: CIS Official Confirms Dniester Republic Membership Request

LD0702221496 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks on settling the Dniester conflict resumed in Tiraspol on Wednesday [7 February].

On the same day in Minsk in an interview with our corespondent Yevgeniy Gorelik, the press secretary of the CIS headquarters, confirmed the report disseminated by the Associated Press Agency that the CIS Executive Secretary had rejected the Dniester republic's request to be admitted into the Commonwealth. Yevgeniy Gorelik stressed that the Dniester republic was not recognized by anyone and is a constituent part of Moldova, which is already a CIS member. He recalled that in both Abkhazia and Chechnya there had been some talk about full-fledged membership of the CIS. Nevertheless, the Commonwealth still numbers 12 countries, former republics of the former Union.

Moldova: Cash Problems May Force Dniester Into Talks

AU0702190596 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 6 Feb 96

["Political Commentary: 'Tiraspol Risks To Quarrel With Moscow and Kiev on Financial Grounds'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 06/02/1996 (BASA-press) — The process of negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol on the Dniester conflict settlement runs again the risk to be frozen for a long period.

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The meeting between the Moldovan President Snegur and the Tiraspol leader Igor Smirnov scheduled for January 31 was frustrated.

The cancellation of the meeting could be foreseen. But given the joint statement signed January 19 by the presidents of Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, the frustration of the negotiations gained a tinge of scandal.

After the joint statement, a preliminary Snegur-Smirnov meeting took place in Chisinau which scheduled a new round of talks for January 31. Later, Tiraspol leaders said Chisinau authorities had to allow a consignment of rubles printed in Germany to enter Dniester if they want to resume talks.

Presidential Adviser Victor Josu told BASA-press that President Snegur deemed it inadmissible to accept this condition which actually presupposes the legalization of another currency and which is a violation of the Moldovan Constitution.

Josu said President Snegur, who was earlier absolutely against a meeting in Tiraspol after the signing of the joint statement, agreed to conducting the talks in the city which claims to be the capital of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

At the same time, Mircea Snegur did not set any preliminary conditions.

The presidential advisers and the Chisinau experts made efforts until the last moment to persuade the Tiraspol leadership to resume talks without any conditions, but they met a categorical refusal. Still, President Snegur abstained from harsh statements on the cancellation of the meeting initiated by him.

Josu also said "Snegur did not give up hope to resume talks, counting on the help of mediators — Russia and OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe."

President Snegur stated at a meeting with Michael Wygant, chairman of the OSCE Mission in Chisinau, last week that the position of Dniester leaders "is regrettable" and no more. The Dniester leadership seems to have assumed the whole responsibility for frustrating the talks.

The difference is that earlier, Tiraspol could afford it given the open support from the outside, as it happened in September 1995, after Smirnov's speech in the State Duma, and the Russian Parliament's decision regarding the declaration of Dniester a zone of Russia's special strategic interests.

One might say Tiraspol considerably lost its positions on the international arena, while Chisinau consolidated it.

At the same time, the president of the Tiraspol Supreme Soviet, Grigore Maracuta, did not hide his irritation with the fact that the Snegur-Yeltsin-Kuchma joint statement was signed without taking into account the opinions of Dniester representatives and without consulting them.

Besides, another irritant reason for the Tiraspol leaders is the fact that the statement contains references to the Dniester region as a component part of Moldova, and to the necessity of granting this region only "a special status," and not a state one, as Tiraspol demands.

The president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov, received a letter from the CIS General Secretariat, in which the region is denied admission to the CIS and the results of the referendum held in late 1995 are simply ignored.

It may be inferred that Tiraspol had solid reasons to refuse to meet President Snegur, in particular given the Snegur-Yeltsin-Kuchma statement which may be regarded as an appeal from Moscow and Kiev. Economic experts do not rule out that the cash shortage in Dniester might be of major importance, indeed, and the Tiraspol administration attempts to procure cash for the region by any means. The inflation of the Dniester rubles was somewhat stopped, but this means the cash on hand has considerably dropped. And if the meeting was canceled for this very reason, then one could believe the talks would be resumed in the near future.

The experience of the previous years shows that any time the talks on political problems, as the one on the region's status, reached a deadlock, Chisinau and Tiraspol preferred to negotiate on economic problems, which proved to be easier to solve.

Moldova: Snegur, Smirnov Negotiations Resume

LD0702225696 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text][Announcer] The Moldovan leadership and the administration of the Dniester region held a meeting today which had previously been postponed for various reasons. For instance, the Tiraspol leaders had demanded Kishinev's permission to bring into Tiraspol Dniester region banknotes printed in Germany. They received no agreement to this, however. The sides have at last had a meeting, with the help of mediators. A report from Sergey Barabanov.

[Correspondent] The only point on the agenda which Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Dniester regional leader Igor Smirnov managed to agree on today was an agreement on joint activities of the Moldovan and Dniester Region customs. The monthly negotiations between the two presidents resumed after a six-month

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break caused by insuperable disagreements over the issue of the status of the Dniester Region.

At the previous meeting of CIS heads of state in Moscow, Moldova proposed an extremely tough version of a statement on the position of the Dniester Region, along the lines of the assessment of the situation in Abkhazia, with sanctions to be imposed if Tiraspol would not compromise. Russia, however, backed by Ukraine, insisted on a considerably milder form of the tripartite statement. Moscow and Kiev insist only on common foreign borders, and Kishinev and Tiraspol must agree among themselves on the form of existence within these. After an agreement is reached, Russia and Ukraine will be the guarantors of stability in the region.

Kishinev could do nothing other than sign the statement and resume the talks.

The stumbling block today was the issue of a single financial system. Kishinev categorically insists on introducing the Moldovan lei from 1 July as the sole currency, in place of the inflation-bedevilled Dnestr region coupon, and placed a veto on Germany delivering the next batch of coupons Tiraspol has ordered. The Dniester region appears prepared to accept the lei, but is demanding the right to issue money, and a number of other privileges.

[Igor Smirnov, captioned as president of the Dniester Moldavian Republic] We have continued the talks on bringing our finance and credit systems closer together. Unfortunately, no final decision has been taken on this, but I think we shall reach one.

[Correspondent] Having failed to sort out the finances, the sides got stuck in the debris of secondary issues, leaving the journalists without the main prize everyone has been waiting for.

[Mircea Snegur] We did not discuss the proposals on status, as such, today. Our agenda was different today, but these issues may have a bearing on the main document.

[Correspondent] Tiraspol had drawn up a new option for coexistence of the two banks of the Dniester: this involves an republic of the Dniester region associated with the Republic of Moldova. This form of relations would round off quite a few sharp corners. Separate treaties are concluded on each type of activity, the state is apparently unified, and the leaders Tiraspol keep all the attributes of independence. The same thing exists between the U.S. and Puerto Rica, for example.

We shall find out Kishinev's view on this at the next round of talks on 11th March.

No crucial decisions were reached at today's meeting, and none were particularly expected. The main thing is that the process of negotiations has been resumed, and this leaves hope that a way out of the Dniester region crisis will nevertheless be found.

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Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: President's Activities in Davos Viewed

LD0702213696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 7 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature by Anna Kovalyova, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky, Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Nazarbayev Discusses Western Businesses' Role In Kazakhstan

During his visit to Davos President Nursultan Nazarbayev had a number of meetings with the leaders of major Western banks and firms, presidential adviser Yerlan Idrisov said at a briefing in Almaty on Wednesday.

He recalled that the Kazakh leader had taken part in the world economic forum for the fourth time.

Nazarbayev participated in the special discussion "Priorities of Kazakhstan's Development for Years to Come and the Expected Degree of Involvement of World Businesses in That Process." Idrisov also mentioned the roundtable discussion President Nazarbayev held with representatives of business circles from the United States, South Africa, Spain, South Korea, Turkey and a number of other countries.

The presidential aide said that with the President of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] Jaques de Larozier the EBRD's participation was discussed in financing the Caspian pipeline consortium and the modernization and expansion of the Aktau port on the Caspian sea.

At the meeting with the Union Bank of Switzerland's representative the possibility was discussed of attracting funds of that organization to finance Kazakhstan's budget deficit in 1996.

With the director of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Nazarbayev discussed the outlook for bilateral cooperation in developing the Vasilkovskoye gold deposit (the Kokchetav region, northern Kazakhstan).

Nazarbayev also had a meeting with the president of Siemens company to discuss the outlook for developing Kazakhstan's energy complex and joint telecommunications projects.

The Kazakh leader had a meeting with the FBI Director Louis Freeh and discussed deeper cooperation by law enforcement agencies and concerted struggle against white collar crime and drugs trafficking. An agreement was concluded on cooperation in training Kazakh law enforcement personnel.

Presidential press-secretary Dulat Kuanyshev said that President Nazarbayev has been on a brief vacation since Tuesday.

About Nazarbayev's plans for February, Kuanyshev said that the president would attend an assembly of Kazakhstan's peoples and a national council on state policies.

Kuanyshev said that Nazarbayev was going to focus on the struggle against crime. He would also review reports by some ministries and agencies, in the first place, law enforcement and defense ministries.

Kazakhstan: Iranian Official Arrives To Discuss Caspian Sea

LD0702205396 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Feb. 7, IRNA - Iran and Kazakhstan once again underlined the necessity for determining the Caspian Sea legal regime, and calling for a meeting of deputy foreign ministers of the five littoral states to decide on the question.

The new stress was made in a meeting here Wednesday between Kazakh Foreign Minister Qasymzhomart Toqayev and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Mahmoud Va'ezi, who arrived in Almaty on Wednesday to attend the gathering for fostering cooperation and confidence in the Asian continent.

The Kazakh official said that Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev is highly satisfied with the outcome of the visit to Almaty last january of Iran' s First Vice-President Hasan Habibi.

Va'ezi said Iran's first vice-president is supervising the implementation of the agreements reached between the two sides in order to faciltate promotion of Iran-Kazakhstan relations.

The five states bordering the landlocked Caspian are Iran, Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

Kazakhstan: Messages Sent to Iran on Revolution Anniversary

LD0702195896 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Feb. 7, IRNA — Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev cabled a message of felicitations to President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday on the occasion of the

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17th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Akezhan Qazygeldin, too, cabled a message of felicitation to First Deputy President Hasan Habibi on the same occasion Wednesday.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: Scientists Say No Radiation From PRC Nuclear Tests

LD0702174296 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0600 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The low-yield underground nuclear test explosions being conducted at Lop Nur in the [Xinjiang Uiygur Autonomous Region of the] PRC are having practically no effect on the radiation situation in Kyrgyzstan which, of course, does not mean that they are justified. This was stated at yesterday's [6 February] routine briefing at the [Kyrgyz] government press service, which was attended by scientists from the Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences, representatives of ecological movements, and officials from the State Committee for the Protection of Nature. The radiation level, as regular measurements in various places in the republic show, remains completely safe for people's health, with small fluctuations. For example, the beta-activity of precipitation registers one-thirtieth the permissible level. This was observed both before and after the underground tests were carried out in China.

In this connection, reports in the press about a deterioration in the radiation situation in Kyrgyzstan, which are sowing alarm and fear in society, seem groundless and demonstrate a lack of scientific conscientiousness and competence, the speakers at the briefing emphasized. [passage omitted]

It was also noted that the rumors of nuclear contamination in the [Lake] Issyk-Kul area last year frightened off many thousands of people who were planning to have a holiday and restore their health there. For virtually half the summer the sanatoria and boarding houses of Issyk-Kul were empty. Is it necessary to say what economic damage the republic suffered? According to the speakers, antinuclear hysteria could do irreparable damage to the development of international tourism in the republic, which has such tempting prospects, and drive many potential loans away from Kyrgyzstan. This is why it is so important to dissipate myths and tell the world the truth about the real radiation situation in the republic.

Kyrgyzstan: Foreign Ministry Completes Foreign Policy Concept

LD0702220596 Bishkek PANORAMA BUSINESS WEEKLY in Russian 26 Jan 96 p2

[FBIS Translated Text] Work on the draft of Kyrgyzstan's foreign policy concept has finished at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Incidentally, work on this document — being carried out for the first time in the history of independent Kyrgyzstan — took several months, and specialists from different departments were involved in it along with other experts.

The draft of the concept states that our republic's geopolitical situation as a Eurasian state in a region which is strategically important both for the West and for Asia, gives it a good opportunity to be involved as a full member of the UN in the common European process, in the Asian region and at a global level equally. [The draft] states that ensuring national security, the defense of political independence and sovereignty, the setting up of a secular, law-governed state and a democratic society and the transition to market economy with subsequent integration into the world market economy all make up Kyrgyzstan's national interests and collectively form the strategic goal of the republic's foreign policy. The draft concept has now been passed on to the Kyrgyz leadership.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Yakhye Azimov Appointed New Prime Minister

LD0802081096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0745 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, February 8 (Itar-Tass) — Yakhye Azimov, 48, a native of Northern Tajikistan, has been appointed a new Prime Minister of Tajikistan by a Tajik President decree dated February 7, Presidential Press Secretary Zakhar Saidov told Itar-Tass on Thursday.

On the same day, previous Prime Minister Jamshed Karimov was relieved of his duties at his own request by a Presidential decree.

Azimov has been Acting President of the Kolinho joint-stock company, which was established on the basis of the republic's largest Kairakum carpet-making amalgamation in Leninabad Region. He is an active advocate of market reforms and enjoys a high prestige among industrialists.

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Tajikistan: New Premier Addresses News Conference

LD0802111896 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1000 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov has issued a decree dismissing Jamshed Karimov from the post of prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan. The ex-prime minister retired at his own request.

The president appointed Yakhye Nuridinovich Azimov as head of government. The new prime minister of Tajikistan held a briefing for local and foreign journalists. He told them about his view of the economic situation in the country and ways to bring the economy out of its deep crisis. Yakhye Azimov answered numerous questions from journalists.

Tajikistan: Government Troops Retreat to New Defense Lines

LD0702154596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Feb 7 (Interfax) — An armed unit of the irreconcilable Islamic opposition has seized Tajik Defense Ministry check points located between the Lairon and Organkul settlements in the Tavil-Dara region, presidential press secretary Zafar Saydov told Interfax Wednesday referring to military sources.

He said clashes between government troops and opposition gunmen continued in the area on February 6-7. "Some government troops have been killed or wounded," said Saydov, but did not specify the number of casualties.

"The government troops deliberately left the check points and retreated to the line in the Lyulikharv settlement, in the Tavil-Dara region. They are controlling the regional situation and have everything necessary for a worthy counteraction to the armed units of the Islamic opposition," stressed Saydov.

Tajikistan: Khudoyberdiyev Transfers Unit to Pamir Foothills

LD0802100096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0705 GMT 8 Feb 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alisher Niyazov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dushanbe, 8 Feb — Subunits of the 1st Brigade of the republic's Defense Ministry started transferring from the south of Tajikistan to the Pamir foothills in Tajikistan today. This unit's headquarters told ITAR-TASS that the brigade's armored group will take up combat positions in the Tavil-Dara area, where for the second week government troops have been engaged in fierce fighting with field commander Mirzo Ziyeyev's opposition group. According to some reports, the government troops have lost some 100 men killed and wounded there during the fighting.

Thus, former rebel Colonel Mahmud Khudoyberdiyev, the 1st Brigade's commander, fulfilled the promise he made yesterday to Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov, the supreme commander, "to defend the constitutional system in any 'troubled' region of the republic" after his demands that a number of high-ranking officials in the Tajik Government resign had been satisfied by the official authorities. [passage omitted]

Tajikistan: Southern Rebel Leader Claims All Arms Handed Over

LD0802110096 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The handing-over of arms and the transfer of hardware from Kurgan-Tyube and Tursunzade to their old positions was completed yesterday. [passage omitted]

During the hand-over of arms, commander Mahmud Khudoyberdiyev [commander of the Defense Ministry 1st Brigade], made a speech to his officers and men, and our correspondent recorded it. Here are extracts of this recording:

[Begin Khudoyberdiyev recording] The people of our Tajikistan will never forget you. I know you came and took up arms not to wage war and not to kill people or (?disperse) them. We wanted... [Khudoyberdiyev pauses] When we were fighting in Ramit and Kumsangir and when our brothers, Tajiks, Uzbeks, and others were dying, certain people came here and took all the posts. We do not mind that they took those posts but they were unable to work after that.

For this reason, I say that as soon as you go back to your locations, first start to provide assistance to our republic's president, Emomali Sharipovich Rakhmanov. Your assistance [word indistinct] will be one thing there.

Do not take up arms any more. Go straight to your homes and explain to the people that an accord has been reached. What we had to say has been said. Our president has fulfilled the demands of the people. As the president has fulfilled the demands of the people, he is our president. That is why we must support him. Let us support this man. Let us work. Our support means that everyone will work in his working place and pick cotton. Let us meet this year's cotton target. [passage omitted]

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I want to say that all the hardware has been removed from Kurgan-Tyube. It is all at the military base now. Our officers and men are preparing to assist Tavildara and Garm. You know that the situation is complicated there. The opposition is carrying out frequent provocations. I want to say that our Tajikistan's people should live in tranquillity and calm. Everything will be fine. [end recording]

Tajikistan: Afghan Aid to Tajik Rebels Viewed

MM0702124496 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Feb 96 p 3

[Report by Aleksey Chukurov: "Tajik Gunmen Trained in UN Camps"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mazar-e Sharif-Camp Sakhi-Khayraton — Who is helping the Tajik opposition detachments? The answer to this question is known in Russia: They are being helped by the Afghan mojahedin or to be more precise by Rabbani's central government. Indeed, it is Rabbani together with his ally Masoud who controls the border provinces of Kondoz and Badakhshan from where the opposition gunmen break through into Tajikistan. Moreover, today the Kabul government retains only six of Afghanistan's 30 provinces. And they are all inhabited by Afghan Tajiks with no special sympathy for E. Rakhmanov's "pro-Moscow" regime. On the other hand detachments of gunmen from Tajikistan's Islamic Revival — the opposition — are welcomed like heroes when they come to vacation there.

So it is not surprising that the Russian Foreign Ministry is bombarding Rabbani's government with notes asking him to stop the firing on the border posts from Afghan territory and to refuse to support the Tajik opposition. But Moscow's anger has had no effect on Kabul. The result can be seen: "Rakhmanov and his team" are now in a virtually hopeless situation. The detachments of Tajik gunmen who have been resting in Kondoz and Badakhshan are delivering strike after strike and the government troops commanders who have been bought up are transferring to the opposition's side with their units. Here in Afghanistan there is open talk of the death throes of Rakhmanov's government.

Persian Shah's Gifts

As I set off for Northern Afghanistan I did not doubt that the local leaders would sling mud on Rabbani's central government. After all, all seven of the country's northern provinces are controlled by General Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan — an open opponent of the Kabul regime. So, when I met with a high-ranking field commander who supports the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, I unhesitatingly asked him: "Can Russia save Rakhmanov by putting pressure on Kabul and forcing Rabbani to hold back the Tajik opposition detachments?" In reply I had only a smile, which surprised me, since it very seldom appears on the faces of my Afghan interlocutors. But a few days later I understood that in asking that question I was like someone from another planet. Here everyone knows that Kabul has in its hands not reins but perhaps only a crankshaft.

First, the Tajik opposition is operating not only from the territories of the provinces controlled by Rabbani. The gunmen are also being helped in the northern territories under the control of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan. It is true that this is being done quietly — the extremists are restrained by the tough stance of Dostam, who does not want to quarrel with Russia. Nonetheless the support for the opposition is having an effect: Pakistan is paying too generously for it. The pro-Pakistani lobby in Dostam's entourage operates on the principle of "what is bad for Russia is good for us." It is this group in the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan leadership which is helping the Tajik gunmen.

Second, the main forces of Tajikistan's Islamic Revival Movement, although they are based on the territory of Rabbani and Masoud, receive their main support from beyond Afghanistan's borders. It is true that in this case it is not Islamabad but Tehran that is acting as a generous "sponsor." Ammunition, weapons, and medical supplies are delivered from Iran along the caravan routes. And the main thing is that enormous sums of money are transferred.

Official Kabul, even if it were to want to, would be unable to close those channels. After all, Rabbani, who is caught in a pincer movement, receives military and financial aid... from Tehran. So Moscow's terrible warnings are to no avail: Neither Rabbani nor Masoud will spoil their relations with Iran "for love." Having thrown the Tajik opposition gunmen out of its territory the central government will immediately lose the favor of Shiite Iran and remain without money or weapons. And on the eve of the taleban's' spring offensive on Kabul that would mean the inevitable loss of the capital and consequently of power.

Third, the Tajik opposition is making skilled use not only of foreign aid but also of the UN potential. I was told in an unofficial talk by the leader of one mission that in the Tajik refugee camps created by the United Nations there is a campaign against their return home. Often gunmen are recruited and trained here directly for detachments of the Tajikistan Islamic

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Revival Movement. The most graphic examples are the three UN camps in Kondoz. Mojahedin maintained by the United Nations are a harsh reality for Afghanistan.

Revelations of Camp Elder

In Camp Sakhi there are refugees from two rayons of Kurgan-Tyube Oblast itself. They fled the government troops in the fall of 1992. There are almost no old men and women in the camp — on the other hand there is a large number of grown men and young children.

Fayzulla — the head of the "camp council," so to speak — was remarkably quick to agree to talk with me. Of the 40,000 Tajik refugees in Afghanistan 7,000 are under Fayzulla's control.

"What is your attitude toward Rakhmanov?"

"What is our attitude.... I shall tell you what happened then, in 1992. I was a simple collective farm engineer. When the fighting began we collected all our belongings one night and left. Where and why we no longer cared. After a few weeks we found ourselves on the Tajik-Afghan border, on the bank of the Amudarya river. We stayed there about a month. Then we were told: The troops will take you in convoy to Dushanbe. The women will go one way, the men another. We refused and then Rakhmanov's soldiers attacked us. The infantrymen began to grab the girls and women and drag them into their vehicles. We could not resist — we simply did not have any weapons. Then my friends and I saw something which god forbid anyone should see. We stood and watched as our wives and daughters fled the soldiers. They drove them onto a cliff beneath which the Amudarya flows. There was nowhere left to run to — and then the women threw themselves onto the rocks. Those who survived fled here to Afghanistan."

"Perhaps it would have been better for you to stay in the village?"

"Later some people returned home escorted by UN troops. Almost everyone had been slaughtered in the region where we lived."

"Talks are now under way in Ashgabat between Rakhmanov and the opposition. Do you believe they will be successful?"

"Of course not. The movement will never agree with the government. Rakhmanov is surrounded by the same people who organized the carnage in 1992. Today we need a government of national salvation. Among the opposition leaders there are many worthy and honest people who could join it."

"What is your attitude toward the presence of Russian troops in Tajikistan?"

"I shall tell you exactly: If your troops start to poke their noses into our affairs Moscow will have a new Afghanistan. We will sort out matters in our own home for ourselves."

After Tajikistan — Uzbekistan?

"Tajikistan will become a testing ground for the Islamic fundamentalists," a source in the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan leadership who wanted to remain anonymous said. "Then Russia will be unceremoniously driven from Uzbekistan. A single Islamic front is in fact now being created, uniting the fundamentalists of the CIS Asian republics. Before the start of the present crisis in Tajikistan the 'hotheads' in the front leadership said: 'It is time to turn to Uzbekistan.' Actions were prepared in Namangan, Fergana, and other cities. But the enthusiasts were easily held back — wait, they were told, we still have to 'digest' Tajikistan."

According to the rules of fighting in the mountains in the winter the adversaries accumulate forces and weapons. But the sun only has to get warmer for detachments of gunmen to come down from the mountains. In contravention of this ironclad law they set about Rakhmanov while it was still winter. And unless aid is rendered to Dushanbe Russia will "lose" Tajikistan in the next few weeks. And no winter will help Rakhmanov.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Karimov Discusses Integration Into World Community

LD0502210296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1757 GMT 5 Feb 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Islam Karimov who attended the International Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, held a meeting with businessmen there. In his view the Davos meetings suggest that mutually beneficial links are developing between the newly independent states and the European countries.

Karimov is reported by his press service as saying that Uzbekistan has since independence been rapidly incorporating into the world economic community and trying to find its own niche in the international division of labor.

Uzbekistan, he continued, relies on the world expertise and close cooperation with international economic and financial organizations in the context of its own historic, demographic an socioeconomic specifics.

Karimov emphasized that Tashkent established close contacts with the World Bank and the International

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Monetary Fund last year. These contacts, he believes, are guarantees that the economic reform in the country is irreversible.

Karimov recalled that the World Bank made two loans available to Uzbekistan to strengthen its national currency while the IMF has decided recently to give the country a stand-by credit.

Karimov attributed the willingness on the part of these international organizations to cooperate with Uzbekistan to the political stability in the country and to the balanced macroeconomic policy aimed at keeping inflation under control and consolidating the national currency.

Uzbekistan succeeded in stabilizing its finances and keeping the budget deficit within 3.5 percent of the GDP, he said. A class of proprietors is emerging in Uzbekistan, he believes. In 1995 alone, he said, 64,000 small businesses and nearly 20,000 farms were set up in the country. A total of 2.7 billion sums ($1 = 36.1 sums) worth of shares was sold on the stock exchange.

Karimov said that the non-state sector accounted for 56 percent of the national income. Uzbekistan, he continued, supports its basic industries. In this way the import is reduced. The country is becoming independent of grain and oil imports, he said.

The Uzbek oil output increased 2.5-fold in four years, he said. The foreign trade balance exceeds $216 million in Uzbekistan's favor.

The bond market started functioning in 1995. Legislation has been passed enabling foreign companies to invest in basic industries. They will have 100 percent of their dividends for 10 years. An agency on foreign investments has been set up. A leasing company and offices of numerous international investment funds have been opened in Uzbekistan, Karimov said.

Quite a few joint ventures with scores of foreign countries have been functioning in Uzbekistan, he continued. He said that Newman Mining, a U.S. company engaged in gold mining from spoil heaps, British-American Tobacco Industries, Daewoo of South Korea, Mitsui of Japan, Siemens of Germany are most active in Uzbekistan. In particular, the manufacture of three kinds of cars will start in Asaka, Andizhan region, in a factory which is a joint venture with Daewoo while assembly of German Daimler Benz cars has started in the Khorezm region.

Karimov said that inflation should be cut, the market of goods and services balanced and the national currency strengthened and made convertible.

The budget deficit will be kept within 3.5 percent of the GDP and the monthly inflation within 3 percent, he said.

Over 400 large and medium businesses will be privatized in 1996. Their stock worth over 2 billion sums will be sold. Foreign companies have a right to purchase them, Karimov said.

The oil and gas output are to increase significantly in 1996. The oil and gas condensate output alone will amount to at least 1.8 million tonnes, he predicted.

Karimov emphasized the need to attract foreign investments to the oil and gas and engineering industries, construction of new railroads and replacement of old gas and oil pipelines.

The competition is running high and increasing on the Uzbek market, he said, and so he urged the businessmen wishing to do business in Uzbekistan to hurry.

Uzbekistan: Karimov Message to Iran on Revolution Anniversary

LD0702225196 Tehran IRNA in English 2113 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, Feb. 7 IRNA — President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan on Wednesday cabled a message of felicitations to Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

In his felicitations he also hoped that relations between the two countries would continually broaden.

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Armenia

Armenia: Iranian Ambassador Calls Armenia-Iran Relations 'Ideal'

NC0702205096 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1512 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, February 07 (NOYAN TAPAN)—"In 1996 political relations between Iran and Armenia will remain on a high level, while mutual economic visits will be more efficient," Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Hamid Reza Negar-Esfahani said at a news conference held Tuesday [6 February] and dedicated to the 17th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. He described the relations between the two countries as ideal. According to Ambassador Esfahani, the most important event of the 1996 will be the switching of the Iranian power transmitting lines to Armenia's power grid, which will enable the Republic of Armenia to receive energy from Iran. He said that works had already started in Iran. Esfahani said that on the initial stage Armenia would be supplied 200 MWt and further the supplies would be increased. Ambassador Esfahani voiced hope that that program would be implemented within the coming 6 months. "The other program envisages supplies of natural gas to Armenia, which is likely to be implemented this year," Esfahani said.

Economic ties between the two countries are developing. Pointing to establishment of joint ventures, Ambassador Esfahani said that joint venture opportunities had been discussed during the visit by Armenia's Industry Minister to Iran. Iran is ready to supply raw material to the Yerevan Aluminum Plant. According to Esfahani, there are broad opportunities for cooperation in textile and chemical industries. Esfahani said that Iran is currently using Armenia's expertise in extracting industries.

Esfahani attached great importance to the development of cooperation in the transport sphere. Reporting on recent talks among Transport Ministers of Iran, Armenia, Georgia and Bulgaria, he noted that Armenia would soon have a direct route to Europe through these countries.

"We have a clear-cut stance on the Karabakh problem. Peace and stability are of prime importance to Karabakh and the countries of the region understand it very well. We keep hoping that this year will be a year of peace and stability," Esfahani underscored.

Speaking on Iran's achievements in 1995, Ambassador Esfahani noted that according to World Bank's recent data the Islamic Republic of Iran is among 25 richest countries. Last year foreign investments to Iran's economy increased by 500 percent. In 1995 Iran exported agricultural produce worth 15 billion USD. Among last year's achievements Esfahani mentioned the opening of Bandar Abbas-Bafq railway, putting into operation of 1250-km long highway, increase in energy output, production of "Parast" surveillance warplanes and "Zolfaha" assault rifles.

Mr. Esfahani especially pointed out that equality between men and women in Iran is stipulated by Article 20 of the Iranian Constitution. According to the latest data, 341 women are working in governmental structures. Women make up 40 percent of higher education establishments' teachers and 13 percent of Republic's journalists. Over 1,800 women are responsible officials at the Iranian newspapers and news agencies.

Armenia: President on 'Terminating Duties' of Vice President

NC0702132196

[FBIS Summary] Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian, received with poor reception on 252 kHz, at 1900 GMT on 6 February carries a 30-minute recorded address by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to the Armenian National Assembly on 6 February, marking the formation of the Constitutional Court.

Ter-Petrosyan begins by saying: "My address is motivated by legislative considerations. The Constitution enshrines the post of vice president. But, considering Gagik Harutyunyan's assumption of the post of president of the Constitutional Court and guided by Part One of Article 98 of the Armenian Constitution, I have signed a decree terminating the duties envisaged for Harutyunyan as vice president of the Armenian Republic in Paragraph Three of Article 16 of the Constitution."

Stating that Armenia is steadily forming the State authority bodies envisaged in the Constitution, Ter-Petrosyan notes that the Justice Council is already functioning and the composition of the Constitutional Court has been finalized. "I consider the formation of this court as an important step on the road to establishing a law-based state," the president says, adding that if the opposition really wants a democratic society and a law-based state it should be the first to welcome this step.

Referring to opposition claims that the [July 1995] elections and the referendum were rigged, Ter-Petrosyan says people should get used to the defeated side saying such things and argues that the opposition failed to get more seats because it could not unite before the elections. He adds that if the opposition cannot understand this and remains disunited, it is bound to be defeated in future parliamentary and presidential elections.

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Ter-Petrosyan says: "It is ridiculous when the Communists and Dashnaks [members of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation] talk about democracy." Referring to the Communists, the president says the people have not forgotten the unanimous decisions in parliament under 70 years of Communist rule. Noting that the Armenian Communists "are now encouraged by their elder brothers' victory in Russia," Ter-Petrosyan says: There never was soil for the Communist Party in Armenia. He goes on: "The indigenous people never accepted the ideology that was imposed on our people by the bayonets of the 11th [Red] Army. If you are entertaining hopes of restoring your regime here, that might be done only by the bayonets of a new 11th Army. If you are promising our people foreign bayonets then you should say so openly."

Referring to Dashnak rule in Armenia in 1918, the president says the Dashnaks controlled the parliament, in which only 6.4 percent of the seats were non-Dashnak. In the current parliament the Republic bloc controls only 60 percent of seats. The rest belong to the opposition and independent deputies.

The president then congratulates the members of the Constitutional Court. He singles out two members of the Court for their outstanding services. He mentions Vahe Stepanyan, the longest-serving minister, and Gagik Harutyunyan. He specifically praises Harutyunyan's contributions to developing trade ties with Iran, managing the Armenia Fund, and coordinating relations between the president and the government and parliament.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Hails Ties With Iran on Revolution Anniversary

NC0602215696 Baku TURAN in English 0930 GMT 6 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/06.02.96/TURAN—Yesterday the 17 anniversary of Islam revolution in Iran was celebrated. The Embassy of Iran made an official reception on this occasion in the "Gulistan" palace in Baku.

"The relations between Iran and Azerbaijan are the relations of friendship and fraternity," the President Geydar Aliyev said addressing at the party.

The president said also that Baku was going to strengthen and to develop relations with Tehran. "Azerbaijan and Iran are connected with historical ties, national-cultural traditions and common religion. Besides, both sides are neighbours and have common frontiers," the president said. According to the president, an Agreement on friendship and co-operation and other intergovernmental documents signed on high level are firm basis for dynamic development of intergovernmental relations.

Azerbaijan: Iran Agrees With Russian Views on Karabakh Conflict

NC0602222296 Yerevan SNARK in English 1339 GMT 6 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, February 6 (SNARK)—Hamid Reza Negar-Esfahani, Iranian Ambassador to Armenia, stated at a press conference conducted today that Russia's and Iran's viewpoints on establishing peace and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh coincide with each other. Also, he expressed hope that in 1996 the Karabakh conflict will be finally settled.

Azerbaijan: U.S. Embassy Reiterates Stand on Nagorno-Karabakh

NC0702210296 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The public affairs office of the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan has confirmed earlier press reports that Robert Kocharyan of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] visited the United States recently. The U.S. Government, which does not recognize Kocharyan as the president of the NKR, has not endorsed the visit. Though Kocharyan was received by some Congressmen, he did not meet any U.S. Government officials during the visit.

The United States recognizes Azerbaijan's sovereignty and the integrity of its territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh. The U.S. Government firmly believes that the status of Nagorno-Karabakh and other issues relating to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, including the question of the captured territories and the return of the refugees to their homes, can only be resolved with the consent of the conflicting sides in a manner acceptable to the international community.

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Estonia

Estonia: Kallas Meets With Ukrainian President in Kiev

LD0602140796 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 6 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The course of reforms in Ukraine is observed with great interest in Estonia and support for them is expressed, Estonian Foreign Minister Siim Kallas stressed at a protocol meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine "deeply values Estonia's support, as its words carry weight in the world," the Ukrainian president replied.

Following the Estonian delegation's talks with Ukraine's leadership, it is expected that an intergovernmental convention on the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion, an intergovernmental agreement on mutual recognition of educational and scientific qualifications and a protocol on cooperation in information between the two countries' foreign ministries will be signed.

Estonia: Kallas Returns From Ukraine, Lithuania

LD0702223196 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Siim Kallas returned tonight from a visit to Ukraine and Lithuania. [Correspondent] Hillar Nahkmann was also on the same plane:

[Begin recording] [Nahkmann] Mr. Foreign Minister: Having heard some statements by your Lithuanian and Latvian counterparts today it seems that this, well, deep cooperation between Baltic states in the economy, trade, and defense still remains a kind of a distant land.

[Kallas] Well, in some areas this cooperation is considerably more promising and closer. One could not say that there is no cooperation between the Baltic states. Well, the Baltic [peacekeeping] battalion is the best-known example and it is a fairly good example, too. And altogether, cooperation is evidently most promising regarding security matters. So this is one thing.

Undoubtedly, our first priority is to join NATO but we have to do something ourselves and there is a whole host of spheres where cooperation can be pursued without it in any way harming our prospects of becoming NATO members one day. [passage omitted]

Latvia also proposed today the idea of joint training at sea. There was also talk about preparations for any crisis operations. [passage omitted]

Another sphere where the Baltic states have always cooperated closely and where cooperation continues to be substantial is the political cooperation, so to speak, with information exchanges about relations with our neighboring countries. Let us say, with Russia first and foremost but today there was also much talk about relations with Ukraine since that is where I was coming from, as well as relations with Belarus. [passage omitted]

And the most problematic area, of course, is our economic cooperation. [passage omitted]

There was much discussion about the creation of a free-trade zone where matters have of course become bogged down by the Latvian and Lithuanian policies which differ on the trade in farm produce. And so, there lies the biggest obstacle both in the ideological and organizational sense. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Latvia

Latvia: Primakov Invited To Visit

WS0702093096 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 6 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb 6, BNS — Latvian Foreign Ministry's State Secretary Maris Riekstins has handed an invitation to visit Latvia to Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov.

Russian Foreign Ministry's official announcement says that Riekstins made the move last week during a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov.

The Russian Foreign Ministry fails to provide information if the invitation has been accepted. Russian diplomats have lately announced that Primakov's meeting with Baltic foreign ministers could be organized soon.

Estonian Foreign Ministry has confirmed that Foreign Minister Siim Kallas could meet with Primakov in the near future.

Latvia: Russia Links Trade Relations to Human Rights

LD0602173396 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 6 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Trade relations between Latvia and Russia will depend on the situation of residents of the Russian nationality in Latvia, Sergey Krylov, deputy russian foreign minister, said at a meeting with a secretary of state of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow last week.

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A statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry today stresses that Russia believes Latvia continues to discriminate against the Russian-speaking population. Therefore, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries will be directly related to the observance of rights of these people, the statement says.

On the other hand, during his visit to Moscow, the secretary of state of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also handed to Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov an invitation to come to Latvia on a visit. The Russian Foreign Ministry did not reply whether the invitation would be accepted.

Latvia: Russia Concerned Over 'Discrimination' in Latvia

LD0702161196 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 7 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia has once again expressed to Latvia its anxiety in connection with discrimination against Russian-speaking residents in Latvia. Grigoriy Karasin, representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, said that this issue was discussed at regular bilateral political consultations which took place last week. The Russian side stressed that the size and intensity of Russian-Latvian cooperation, and first of all trade and economic cooperation, will continue to be related to the situation with ensuring rights and freedoms of compatriots in Latvia.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Brazauskas on Russian Links, NATO Eastward Expansion

BR0702134096 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Feb 96 p 4

[Interview with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas by Yves-Michel Riols; place and date not given: "I Am Not Afraid of Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Riols] In 1991 Boris Yeltsin recognized Lithuania as a sovereign state. Today he is crushing the independence-seeking Chechens. Does Boris Yeltsin's Russia unnerve you?

[Brazauskas] No. I am not afraid of Russia. We have good relations with all our neighbors. We are no more afraid of Russia than we are of other European states. As for Chechnya, there are two sides to the conflict, whereas some people only want to see the Chechens' side. The Russian point of view should also be taken into account. You must ask yourself why this crisis came about, how it could have been avoided, and who is responsible for it. I agree entirely with those who say that the Russian Government did not do everything that was required to prevent the crisis. Ways of resolving it without bloodshed could have been found.

Being a leader myself, I would never want my people to be exterminated. So the Chechen leaders should have thought about the consequences and done something to ensure that their people were not exterminated. Russia's attempts to resolve this conflict peacefully have virtually fallen on deaf ears among the Chechens. This conflict must be brought to an end.

[Riols] Do you not fear a build-up of nationalism in Russia since the nationalists' and Communists' victory in the December elections?

[Brazauskas] Where Zhirinovskiy is concerned, he received less votes than in the previous election. So I do not believe that the Russian nationalists won the elections. As for the Communists, I do not agree that they are nationalists. If I recall correctly, the Communists have always considered themselves to be internationalists. I do not know whether this is still the case, but that is the image which has stayed in my head. Of course, internationalism can sometimes be dangerous, as our country knows only toow only too well what so-called voluntary membership means. In 1940 Lithuania was occupied in a single day.

[Riols] Lithuania is the only one of the three Baltic states to have formally requested NATO membership. Do you think that Russia will tolerate seeing one of the former republics of the USSR join the Atlantic alliance?

[Brazauskas] Russia has its point of view and we, as an independent state, have ours. Only time will tell what Russia's position will be. I do not want to dramatize the issue. Above all, the answer will depend on relations between the leaders of NATO and of Russia, as well as on the attitude displayed by the other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Lithuania: Prime Minister on Parliament Vote on Dismissal

LD0702132796 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0830 GMT 7 Feb 96

[Interview with Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius by Adolfas Drungilas at the prime minister's office in Vilnius — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Drungilas] Prime Minister, do you often think about the Seimas session of 8 February [the date when the Seimas is going to discuss a proposal by President Algirdas Brazauskas on the dismissal of the prime minister]? Do these thoughts interfere with your work? [passage omitted]

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[Slezevicius] It is not possible to forget about 8 February, I am being repeatedly reminded of this date. Just like a student who lacks time before an examination or presentation of some report, tonight, I will have to spend a long evening to prepare for tomorrow's speech. [passage omitted]

However, recently I have devoted most of my time to dealing with day-to-day matters. Naturally, all the government has been preoccupied by preparation of a program for overcoming the banking problems. We prepared this program in a timely manner, in accordance with instructions from the Seimas, that is, by the beginning of February. We worked on procedures and the timetable for repaying deposits [frozen at troubled banks]. The initial stage of repayment will start as soon as lists of depositors are compiled. In addition, we need to make a number of decisions that are indirectly related to the banking problems. These decisions are necessary for the implementation of the program; they are from the fields of power engineering, agriculture, and social security.

It is very disappointing that there are now many allegations that the program for overcoming banking problems has been prepared unprofessionally and that it is unrealistic. There are some people who say that. Nevertheless, I would like to repeat what I have said in the Seimas: this program cannot be partially implemented. It must be implemented as a whole, since if it is implemented in another manner, the success of the program will be very questionable. So, when we speak about the ways and deadlines for solving these problems, it is most important that decisions in all fields are made quickly. Despite all the difficulties in recent days that I had to face, this work was being done continuously. Last week and this week we had meetings with the management of the Bank of Lithuania nearly every day.

Now, the program is being prepared in a more detailed manner. We will have to clarify the specific actions and specific pieces of legislation that will be needed. We will have to approve some decisions at today's sitting of the cabinet, as well.

I am afraid I did not manage to answer your question briefly, but I believe that day-to-day matters cannot be forgotten.

No matter the outcome of tomorrow's vote in the Seimas, the government must continue this work. Obviously, it is my duty to make sure that these activities are carried out smoothly. [passage omitted]

Whatever the outcome of the voting will be, I would not like to paint it as a drama. It is a normal process. I can only say that if the voting is in favor of the president's proposal, which is most likely, it will change the balance of political forces in the Seimas radically. That is, some of the opposition will be supported by some of the parliamentary majority [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, LDDP]. Obviously, thereby the responsibility will be transferred to the opposition and to the [LDDP] faction that will support these decisions.

[Drungilas] You mentioned the presidential decree. Many listeners would like to know if you have decided to resign voluntarily.

[Slezevicius] True, I keep thinking about this question. I cannot ignore the proposal of the president [to resign voluntarily] or proposals of some of my party colleagues.

However, as I said earlier, I am not in a position to make such a decision on my own. So far, instructions of the council of the party [LDDP] was not to do that [the LDDP Council asked Slezevicius, who is the chairman of the LDDP, not to resign]. Certainly, some influential members of the party have a different view, which is perfectly acceptable in a democratic society.

That is why I, after careful consideration, have chosen this particular way [not to resign]. This choice may seem wrong, it may look as if I am manifesting my stubbornness. I understand that if I resign I would thereby admit the wrongdoings that I will be accused of tomorrow [at the Seimas sitting]. [passage omitted]

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